REPORT

OF

THE COMMISSIONERS

APPOINTED UNDER

THE LOWER CANADA ACT, 4TH WILLIAM IV. CAP. 10,

TO VISIT THE

UNITED STATES' PENITENTIARIES.

HON. D. MONDELET AND J. NEILSON, ESQUIRES,

COMMISSIONERS.

QUEBEC:

PRINTED BY NEILSON & COWAN, MOUNTAIN STREET.

1835.

CONTENTS.

	Page.
Commissioners' Report	5
Journal	11
List of Publications and Plans deposited	27
Maine State Prison	30
Massachusetts State Prison	35
Plan of Charlestown State Prison	42
Connecticut State Prison	43
City of New York House of Refuge	49
Pennsylvania Penitentiary	56
State of New York, Sing-Sing	61
State of New York, Auburn	67

TO HIS EXCELLENCY

THE GOVERNOR IN CHIEF.

The Commissioners appointed in virtue of the Act of the 4th Will IV. Cap. 10. "to proceed to the United States "of America to visit the principal Penitentiary Prisons "therein, to ascertain the several systems of discipline "adopted in such Prisons, and the Regulations made "for the internal government and management thereof; "to procure such Plans, Estimates, Publications, Doc- "uments and information as they shall consider best "adapted to promote their Mission and to enable the "Legislature thereafter, to make effectual provision "for the establishment of the Penitentiary system in "this Province."

REPORT:

That, having provided themselves with printed copies of the Act, prepared the heads of the information desired, and being furnished by His Excellency with a Letter to His Majesty's Minister at Washington, and a Circular addressed to the several authorities in the United States, they proceeded from Quebec on the 23rd June last, by the Kennebec Road, lately opened, and visited in succession, the Penitentiary Prisons of the States of Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, the Cities of New York and Philadelphia, and of the States of New Jersey and New York.

They most respectfully refer to the annexed Journal of their visit, kept by one of the Commissioners, and to the Reports of the different Penitentiary Institutions which accompany the said Journal.

They also refer to the annexed Schedule of the Laws, Reports, Publications and Plans relating to Prisons and Penitentiaries, which they have collected, and deposited in the office of the Secretary of the Province. Among them is a copy in French of the work of Messieurs DE BEAUMONT and TOCQUEVILLE, Commissioners of the French Government to the United States, and the late Law of Upper Canada establishing a Penitentiary at Kingston, together with a Plan of the Building now erecting there.

The aforementioned documents with the Report of Mr. CRAWFURD, the British Commissioner, which was in course of publication at London last Summer, it is hoped will put the Legislature in possession of the most extensive information on the subject of the American Penitentiary system.

The Act under which the Commissioners were appointed has expressed the opinion of the Legislature that "it is expedient to establish the Penitentiary system of Prison discipline in this Province:" Although by the third clause of the Act they are required to give their opinion, as to the conclusions to be drawn from the information which they have obtained, they cannot presume to enter into the examination of a question already decided by the authority under which they are appointed.

A question may indeed arise as to which of the Penitentiary systems concerning which they have furnished information, is preferable.

There are two systems prevalent in the Penitentiary Institutions in the United States; that of Auburn in the State of New York, and of Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania. The whole of the Penitentiary Prisons in the State of New York, and throughout the New England States, are upon the Auburn system. Those of Pennsylvania and New Jersey are upon the Philadelphia system.

The essence of the Penitentiary system is the separate con-

finement of each Convict. The Auburn system combines seclusion, with work in company, under the presence of coercion enjoining silence and the absence of all communication among the Convicts. The Philadelphia system combines entire seclusion, with work in the Cell of the Convict.

The most apparent results of these systems, or rather the different practices of the same system has been:—According to the Auburn practice, a higher degree of profit from the labor of the Convict:—According to the Philadelphia practice, a more subdued tone of mind in the Convict, and apparently a greater reform in his disposition and habits; but less profit from his labor.

The primary object of the deprivation of individual freedom, viz.:—the protection of the community against criminal acts, is attained by both systems. That which in its results contributes the most to reform the Convict, and deter others from following his example, must, eventually, be the most profitable. If a temporary detention were to become a School for Criminals; if they were afterwards to spread over the whole country, and readily to combine from a knowledge of each other, be held together by a community of feeling arising from similar sufferings, and spread and profit by their knowledge in the art of committing crime and avoiding detection, the cost to the community would soon be immense, both in loss by depredations and expenses of detection and conviction; there would be in the body of the community a well trained and organized corps of depredators constantly on the increase, and destructive of the objects of Society and Government.

Results, nearly of the foregoing description, have already been produced by the old systems of detention. The Penitentiary system was fallen upon in England, and improved in Pennsylvania and other States of the American Union, as a remedy for the increase of crime, under the milder administration of the Criminal Laws, and the vices of the systems of detention in Common Gaols, which had prevailed in civilized countries.

The foregoing considerations have inclined the Commissioners to prefer the Philadelphia system, notwithstanding that it offers

less immediate profit; and may even, for a time, entail considerable expenses.

The Auburn system, besides, has given rise to very general complaints among Tradesmen and Manufacturers, on account of the competition which they have to sustain against State Prison labor in trades and branches of industry similar to their own. Whether these complaints be well or ill founded, it is important that there should be no room for ill feeling against incipient establishments of a benevolent character.

From what has been stated of the essential character of the Penitentiary system, it will be obvious that it requires Prisons with separate Cells for each Convict. Every attempt at improvement without such separate Cells, has failed, or produced very little beneficial result.

The Commissioners, under the idea, that, as a necessary consequence of the decision which the Legislature had come to, of introducing the Penitentiary system, Prisons suited to that system must be erected, have procured a complete plan of the new Penitentiary Prison erecting at Trenton, in the State of New Jersey. This plan was furnished by Mr. HAVILAND, the Architect of the Prison, and also of that of the Cherry Hill Penitentiary at Philadelphia, and the Western Penitentiary at Pittsburg. It is an improvement on both of the last mentioned Penitentiaries, and Mr. HAVILAND has kindly offered models for the building, and any other information which may be desired. This plan has been deposited with the Secretary of the Province. Only one Wing, or even a part of a Wing, may be erected at first, and serve immediately, as a Penitentiary Prison, and at an inconsiderable expense.

The Commissioners think it their duty particularly to notice the House of Refuge at New York, and others on the same plan at Philadelphia and Boston. Youth who are in the career of crime, and likely to become adepts, are stopped at the outset, and turned to the paths of peace, honesty and happiness. The most benevolent and intelligent persons in the United States are of opinion that if with the Houses of Refuge which are, in fact, conducted on the Penitentiary system, separate detention *in all cases*, both before and after trial were resorted to,

an effectual check would speedily be put to crime, and the community enjoy a degree of security far greater than exists or can be expected at present, even with the improvements in the Penitentiary systems. The County Gaols are in fact Schools for subjects for the Penitentiaries.

The Commissioners have visited personally thousands of their fellow men deprived of liberty, tainted in character, and degraded to the lowest rank of servitude, working without wages, under the immediate presence of personal coercion; if any relief could be afforded to this afflicting spectacle, it was derived from the intelligence and humanity of the Keepers, the cleanliness and comfort of the Buildings and Cells, the order and regularity of the management, the perfection of the Convicts in various trades, and the excellence and usefulness of the articles produced, and particularly by the hope that some, at least, of the miserable beings so reduced, might be restored to the rank of freemen, and become virtuous and useful members of the community, whose Laws they had violated, and whose welfare they had disregarded.

The Commissioners cannot close this Report, without rendering a tribute, which is justly due, to the authorities of the different States to whom they had occasion to apply during their visit. In every instance, the views of the Commissioners were not only readily forwarded, but even their desires were anticipated, with an attention and active exertions equally honorable to these authorities and the American People. Assistance in accomplishing the objects of their mission, was, indeed, not confined to persons in authority: it was sufficient for individuals to become acquainted with the objects of the Commissioners, to ensure the offer of their services, and actual sacrifices of time, and trouble for that purpose.

So much public spirit in favor of extending information regarding the Penitentiary system, is a strong proof of the estimation in which it is held among intelligent men, whose benevolence is confined to no narrow circle, but embraces the whole human family.

The Commissioners think it their duty particularly to remark the respectable standing, character and acquirements, which

they found generally prevailing among the persons entrusted with the government of the State Prisons. The extension of education in the United States, gives them peculiar advantages in this respect, and enables them to acquire the services of such characters for a very moderate compensation. Some of the Superintendants have indeed devoted their lives to forwarding the system, more from a principle of benevolence than from a consideration of the compensation allowed; and much of its success in the United States, is due to the superior abilities and personal fitness of the Managers, without which it could hardly have had a fair trial.

D. MONDELET,
J. NEILSON, } Commissioners.

QUEBEC, 22ND JANUARY, 1835.

JOURNAL

KEPT BY JOHN NEILSON, ESQUIRE,

AS COMMISSIONER

UNDER THE ACT 4TH WILL. IV. CAP. 10.

To visit the principal Penitentiary Prisons in the United States of America, in company with the Hon. DOMINIQUE MONDELET, *the other Commissioner.*

Monday, 23rd June, 1834.—Left Pointe Lévi at 11 o'clock, A. M. in two American Chaises, to proceed by the Kennebec Road to Skowhegan Falls, Township of Millburn, State of Maine, and thence to Augusta the Capitol of that State.

Friday, 27th.—At noon, arrived at Augusta, in Stage from Skowhegan. Waited immediately on the Secretary of the State, ROSCOE C. GREENE, Esquire, at Stevens' Hotel, who informed us that the States' Prison at Thomastown, was conducted on the Penitentiary system. After communicating to him the Governor's Circular, and the printed statement of the information desired by the Commissioners, he assured us of his disposition to give all the information in his power; but doubted that it could be complete without our visiting the Prison.

The same day, proceeded to Brunswick in the Stage, where we arrived at 6 o'clock, P. M. and waited on the Governor, ROBERT P. DUNLAP, immediately, and communicated LORD AYLMER's Circular and copy of the information desired. He assured us of his readiness to afford us every facility in effecting the object of our mission, and the next morning sent us a letter to the Warden of the State Prison, the Honorable JOEL MILLER.

Sunday, 29th.—At 10 o'clock, A. M. proceeded by Stage, for Thomastown.

Monday, 30th.—Arrived at Thomastown at 5 o'clock, A. M. having slept at Waldbourgh. At 9, waited on the Warden at the State Prison. Visited the same, the Cells, Workshops, Lime Quarries and Stone-cutters, of Granite brought from near Augusta on the Kennebec River. In all sixty-one Prisoners, only one female.

An investigation was then going on into some complaints against the Warden; and the Commissioners appointed by the Governor under an Act of the Legislature were then sitting and requiring the whole time of the Warden, which he informed us would be the case for several days. He expressed his earnest desire to give us every information, and after accompanying us himself, gave us one of his assistants to attend us. He offered to fill up the answers to the enquiries in the printed paper of "information desired," as soon as possible, and forward it to New York.—*(Vide* A.)

Left him a copy of the paper aforementioned, to be filled up, and gave the address,

"Messrs. MONDELET & NEILSON, care of Mr. GEORGE LONG, Bookseller, New York."

Received from him printed copies of his last Report to the 15th January, 1833.

This Prison is situated at Thomastown, a Port on a Bay of the Sea, into which empties a small Stream called St. George's River. The Village of Thomastown is to the East of it, and contains about 1500 Inhabitants, chiefly engaged in quarrying and burning Lime, which is sent in Brigs to the Chesapeake and New Orleans. The Prison stands on an elevation to the South of the Highway. The Lot runs down to St. George's River, by a steep bank, elevated about 200 feet above the level of the water. Back of the Prison are deep Quarries of Lime-stone or coarse white blue veined marble. On the bank of the River are the Stone-cutters of Granite, which is brought as before stated, from near Augusta by water, and when worked into building stone, sent chiefly to New York by Sea. Black-smiths' Shops are dependent on the Quarries, for the making and repairing of the tools, and the other workshops are Wheelwrights and Shoemakers. The Prisoners are, generally, young, stout and healthy, dressed in hat, shirt and trowsers, one half of which is blue, the other white canvas. They work under view, and begin and leave off by signal. The whole Lot which may be about four or five acres in superfices, is surrounded, excepting where the Prison stands, towards the Road, by a wooden enclosure, about twenty feet in heighth, with a footway all round on the outside at a height so that the Guards may look over it. These Guards are seven in number, and have Lodges

in commanding positions; they are armed with rifles, and have spare arms in their Lodges; they are authorized to fire in certain cases, and have fired on parties who were attempting to force their way out. Flogging with the horsewhip is resorted to, when necessary to produce obedience. Punishments are, solitary confinement and short allowances. Seven escapes have taken place in ten years out of about five hundred Prisoners, besides two or three that were retaken.

The Cells for the Prisoners are built of large masses of hewn stone; all is stone outside and inside; and they descend into these Cells by holes like those of the hold of a ship, secured with iron trap-door gratings and padlocks. They have palliasses on a coarse bedstead to lie upon, and buckets for necessary uses, and nothing else. The inside and outside are white-washed. They generally eat in a wooden building near the Kitchen, which also serves for Chapel and Sunday School.

The Officers, Guards and Servants, not Prisoners, are fourteen. Some Prisoners are employed as Spies over the rest; and for cooking, &c. Beyond the enclosure, to the West, there is a piece of ground belonging to the Institution, perhaps two or three arpents, cultivated in potatoes and garden stuffs.

The Prisoners appear to work with spirit, and are not very ill looking, nor apparently much discontented. The majority are from other States; several from Ireland, and some from other parts of Europe.

All enquiries made of the Inhabitants, generally, respecting the disposition to employ persons known to have been in the State Prisons, have been answered, that no one would employ them if known, and that they can only find employment where it is not known that they have been State Prisoners. No one will take them into their families.

Tuesday, 1st July.—Proceeded by Stage to Brunswick, and thence to Portland the next morning, where we were detained for Steam-boat to Boston, till the evening of the 3rd; one Boat having failed in her regular trip to go to Bangor with a party for the celebration of Independence.

Thursday, 3rd.—Proceeded by Steam-boat *Chancellor Livingston*, to Boston, 6 P. M. and arrived next morning at 7 A. M. No business could be done that day on account of almost every one being engaged in the celebration of Independence.

Saturday, 5th.—Waited on the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Mr. BANGS, at the State House, the Governor being resident at Worcester. Gave the Secretary a copy of the Act

and information desired. He offered every assistance, and gave us a note to Mr. ADAN, an Inspector of the State Prison, who gave us a letter to the Warden at Charlestown, CHARLES LINCOLN, Junior, Esquire.

Visited the Prison, found the Warden absent at Boston; went through the different parts of the Building and yard with the Assistant Warden, and left a copy of information desired by the Commissioners, which the Assistant assured us would be ready for Monday morning.

Monday, 7th.—Visited the State Prison at Charlestown; found the Warden who delivered the answers to our enquiries, and made such explanations as were asked for by the Commissioners.—(*Vide* B.) Mr. ADAN also procured us the Reports of the Prison Society, and the Secretary of State furnished us with several printed Reports made to the Legislature, which, with some others purchased, have been preserved.

Left our address at New York, to the care of Mr. GEORGE LONG, Bookseller, with Mr. LINCOLN, Mr. ADAN and the Secretary of State, for the purpose of their sending us a plan of the Charleston Penitentiary, and the existing Regulations which are now undergoing an alteration, preparatory to the printing of a new edition.—(*Vide* Reports of Prison Society.)

The Charlestown Penitentiary is situated North West of Boston, on the opposite side of Charles' River, and to the West of Charlestown and Bunker's Hill. It is on a lot of about ten acres fronting on the River, or rather arm of the Sea, which nearly surrounds the town of Boston. It has a Wharf for the purpose of receiving and sending articles by the navigation. The whole Prison and lot is enclosed with a wooden picket fence, from fifteen to twenty feet in heighth, with a wooden road or gallery round the outside for the Guards to walk round, and see on both sides the fence, with sentry-boxes in convenient positions. The old Gaol or Penitentiary stands in front, the yard and workshops back, and the new Penitentiary to the East. This is the only Building suited for the Penitentiary system. The old Building serves for Offices, Hospitals, &c. The new Building contains three hundred Cells, seven feet six inches long, by three feet six inches wide, two deep, with doors on opposite sides, and rising four stories, to which access is had outside, by stone stairs at the end, and stone galleries supported by iron columns. *Vide* sketch by MARTER MASON—(C.) The roof and floors of the Cellars are coarse cut or split granite, and in pieces of two to three feet wide, and six to twelve long. The whole is whitewashed inside and out, and also the floors whenever they become soiled. There is throughout a clean wholesome

smell, and each Cell has a flue for air, besides, the door, which is of iron bars only. The Cell contains a seat, a shelf for books, &c. and canvas frame for bed, blanket, &c. The frame is raised up against the wall in the day time, with the bedding. The Prisoners have buckets which they bring out in the morning and take in at night. They all eat in their Cells, and bring with them their tin dishes when they come out to return to work, placing them according to the order of their Cells, and taking them up in the same order, when they return. Every thing is done by signal, ringing of a bell, &c., and the whole is conducted on the plan of military discipline, on pain of personal chastisement, but by the Warden or Deputy Warden only, and after a sort of trial or hearing.

The Warden thinks the Cells sufficiently large, but that they ought to be raised a little above the level of the floor. They form a house built within a house. The space to the outer walls about nine feet, he says is too small. It ought to be twelve feet at least, and the lights in the outer wall, which are very small, double the size.

The Prison is upon the Auburn system. There is no great confidence in its efficacity in preventing crime or reforming the Criminals; but their detention costs less; the Prisoners are better off and healthier, although wrought hard, and there is reason to believe that several do reform, and lead an honest life in places where they are not known. The impossibility of preventing communication among Prisoners who work near one another, makes some doubt if the Philadelphia system of separate work is not the best.

The cutting of granite which is brought from Quincy, by Rail-road and water, is found the most profitable employment. Doubts are entertained if it is not unhealthy, the dust affecting the lungs, and the greatest number of deaths being by consumption. Men after six years in this employment, are generally worn out. The first smoothing of the split granite is with a tool like an axe with two sides, it is heavy and wrought with both hands, striking as with an axe. The finishing is with a chissel. The other principal branches of work in this Penitentiary are Blacksmiths, Shoemakers, Cabinetmakers and Brushmakers, all of which pay and give rise to no complaint from those who carry on business of the same kind in town. The shops and convicts are frequently hired to trades-people, who carry on these branches there, and it is found advantageous.

The cut granite is often sent to New York and the South.

On information that the State Prison for New Hampshire was on a similar plan to that of Connecticut at Weatherfield, we determined to proceed direct for Hartford, the seat of Government for Connecticut.

Monday, 7th, P. M.—Left Boston by Mail Stage, travelled all night, and arrived at Hartford at 3 P. M. on the 8th July, being an hour later than usual, occasioned by the excessive heat, the thermometer having been at 98, Fareinheit, in the shade, the highest for several years. (This heat continued from 4th July till the 10th July in the evening, when there were thunder showers.)

Wednesday, 9th.—In the forenoon waited on Mr. DAY, the Secretary of State, with Dr. HOLLAND, Professor of Languages, at the Hartford College, who was acquainted with Mr. MONDELET. The Governor resides at Newhaven; but Mr. DAY offered us all the assistance in his power, and Dr. HOLLAND, notwithstanding the extreme heat of the weather, accompanied us to the States' Prison, and also to the Lunatic Asylum, College and Institution for Deaf and Dumb.

The States' Prison is situated a few miles from Hartford to the South West, in the Township of Weathersfield, on a rising ground inclining to the Connecticut on the East; a situation uniting the advantages of healthiness and room, with a commanding view of the whole of the rich, beautiful and extended Valley of the Connecticut from the Northern range of mountains above, to the rising grounds below which close towards the River before it reaches the Sea cost.

Some of the Convicts were out in the fields, to the West of the Building, haymaking, apparently without any Keeper. The Building is upon the Auburn plan, and managed in the same way. It is of red sand stone, three stories. The whole upon the cheapest plans to suit the revenue of the State, which is small.

The Cells are rather larger than in Charlestown, and the distance to the outer wall greater; the outer windows larger. The doors of the Cells are of wood, guarded with iron; the stairs and galleries are of wood; the whole slight work, but well secured. The furniture of the Cells nearly the same as at Charlestown. The government appears to be good, and the Warden has that peculiar personal superiority which makes command easy and inspires confidence.

The most extensive and lucrative branch of industry followed by the Convicts is Chair-making, with cane and rush bottoms. Other Cabinet-makers work is also followed, among others carving for the Wooden Clocks, so great an article of export from Connecticut. The wood used is the wood of the Country, maple, birch, &c. Shoemaking and Blacksmiths work are also carried on. The whole expenses have been more than covered. The male Convicts appear to be healthy, and satisfied with their

treatment. Ten are in the Hospital. We found there the only Lower Canadian that we have met with in the State Prisons: he was deeply affected when he was informed we were from Canada, and wept bitterly: he is sentenced for three years for burglary, one of which is expired: he wished it not to be known by his relations that he was there: he had gone to Sea from Canada to Europe. The female Convicts here were engaged in sewing, &c. They were principally confined for adultery.

The Warden of the Prison not being prepared immediately to answer all our enquiries, Dr. HOLLAND was so kind as to take charge of them, and we left him our address at New York. The attention and assistance the Commissioners received from this intelligent, liberal and benevolent gentleman, rendered their task at Hartford easy and agreeable. (A plan of the Weathersfield Penitentiary was made by the Upper Canada Commissioners.)—*Vide* answers to enquiries.—(D.) See also plan in Prison Discipline,—Report 1831.

Thursday, 10*th*.—Left Hartford at 6 A. M. in the *Water Witch* Steamer, for New York, and arrived there at 7 P. M. an hour later than usual, owing to head winds and a thunder storm from the West in the afternoon.

Friday, 11*th*.—The Governors of the State do not reside in New York. The Penitentiary Prison here is on Blackwall's Island, in the East River, a mile to the West of Hell Gate. It is under the Corporation; and the Mayor was busy with the riots which have prevailed nightly for some time past, to a degree that houses are gutted, persons ill treated, and large bodies of Infantry, Artillery and Cavalry called out in aid of the Civil power. It was not till the 12th that we obtained a permit to visit the Island, on which no Boats are permitted to land. To this we were indebted to Mr. Counsellor SAMPSON and Mr. RIKER, the Recorder of the City.

We visited the Island in the afternoon of the 12th, in a Boat, from Whitehall Stairs, a distance of six miles. The Building is of stone, quarried on the Island, and the work principally done by Convicts. It is an extensive square in the centre, rising four stories, and a Look-out on the top. In the centre are the lodging for Officers, Hospital and Servants; each wing is to have Cells on the Auburn plan, but only one Wing is finished; and the whole can hardly yet be said to be in operation. It is a source of great expense to the City. The Convicts were employed in quarrying, and had no distinctive dress. Others were working at the Building. The females are at Bellevue Hospital, on the opposite shore of New York

Island; but it is no regular Penitentiary Prison. Left enquiries with the Superintendant, to be transmitted to the Recorder as soon as possible. This Superintendant was only eight days in the place, having been appointed after the late political changes in the City Government. The former incumbent, we were informed, had held the situation for twelve or fourteen years.

Monday, 14*th*.—Visited the House of Refuge at Bloomingdale, about a mile and a half North from City Hall, under a letter of introduction from Mr. RIKER, the Recorder.

This Institution consists of two departments, one for males under sixteen, the other for females. For description of Institution, see book and the answers of the Superintendant to our enquiries.—(E.) It was commenced by a private Association, countenanced by the City authorities, and finally sanctioned by the Legislature. The whole is under the management of Mr. NATHANIEL C. HART, who was Assistant to a Lancasterian School in New York, and is allowed a larger salary, as a compensation for the place he gave up. The order and spirit of the Lancasterian system, is maintained in the Institution, exciting self respect in the inmates, and stimulating rather by rewards and distinctions, than controlling by fear of punishment. The Superintendant possessess extraordinary natural and acquired talents for this purpose, and the Matron, Miss ORAM, appears to be also well chosen. Order, cleanliness, contentment, confidence, and even attachment, seem to reign throughout. No youth is received excepting after conviction for some offence, among which vagrancy is included. The establishment although a Prison, looks more like a good School and Manufactory, than a place of involuntary detention. Every thing tends to show that its beneficial results as stated in the Reports are not exaggerated. The reform of the Convict both for the present and future is real or probable. Society is relieved from the almost certain depredations and crimes which would have followed the course in which these youths had commenced, and also from the expenses and disgrace of future convictions and imprisonments. Whatever conclusion may be come to in respect to the other Penitentiary Prisons, this *House of Refuge* is a positive good; and if followed up with separate detention in the Common Gaols before conviction, in cases where bail is not allowed or forthcoming, it would nearly render Penitentiary Prisons unnecessary.

Tuesday, 15*th*, 10 *A. M.*—Proceeded for Philadelphia by Steam-boat to South Amboy, and by Rail-road between the Raritan and Delaware at Bordentown—arrived at 6 P. M.

Next day visited Mr. DUPONÇEAU, with whom Mr. MONDELET was acquainted. He conducted us to Mr. BRADFORD'S, one of the Inspectors of the Penitentiary, but not finding him, went to Mr. ROBERTS VAUX, who was one of the Commissioners for the Building. Mr. VAUX procured a letter to Mr. WOOD, the Keeper, from Mr. BRADFORD. Neither the Governor nor the Secretary of the State reside in Philadelphia.

Thursday, 17*th*.—Visited the Penitentiary situated at Cherry Hill, North West of Philadelphia, near the Schuylkill. It is an extensive Building in the form of an Octagon, the Cells diverging from a common centre, like the spokes of a wheel from the nave. The Keeper's lodgings and offices occupy the whole front, extending six hundred and fifty feet, with two castellated turrets in the centre, and at each end, in the style of ancient Gothic Buildings in Europe. In the rear of the centre is a high Watch-tower to overlook the whole premises, all of rough hewn reddish sand stone. (*Vide* description and plan in Messrs. DE BEAUMONT and TOCQUEVILLE'S Report, and Philadelphia publications, and Keeper's answers.)—(F.)

The system followed here is different from that of any of the Prisons which we have hitherto viewed. It is solitary confinement, with work in the Cells, at different trades. Money making is not considered as a very important object. The cost of confinement and of the Institution cannot be well ascertained till the work is finished, two radii only being yet completed. The Building will cost about half a million of dollars, and it is probable that the current expenses will *not* be met by the sales. The Legislature has however approved the plan and system, and hitherto cheerfully provided for the expenses.

The effect of the system on the health of the Convicts will be best learned from the Returns of the Hospital, and deaths as per Reports, which may be compared with similar Returns from Prisons conducted on a different system, namely the Auburn system, which prevails throughout New York and New England.

The main object of the Philadelphia system, besides protecting the public from the depredations of persons who, it is to be presumed, have become habitually lost to moral restraint, and unsafe to be trusted abroad, is to bring the Convict back to a state of mind to govern himself by moral rules, and live in society without committing offences, which are incompatible with its peace and welfare, and forbidden by Law.

If success can at all be obtained in the objects which the authors of this system had in view, this Institution appears to be well calculated for the purpose.

The Convict is separated from that society whose Laws he has contemned: he is cleaned and his dress changed on his arrival, blinded with a hood and led to a Cell, he cannot tell where: he remains shut up in that Cell; (with the use of a small high walled separate yard adjoining it for one hour each day) is known only by his number even to his immediate Keeper, and sees no other person, excepting the Superintendant, a religious Teacher, and a Physician occasionally: he is furnished with books and work, and if he does not work he does not eat, excepting what is just necessary to preserve life: he is in every way treated with humanity, spoken with as a being susceptible of reason, and to be guided by reason: he is not under the presence of mere force or arbitrary infliction: he is restrained only in obedience to the Law after a fair trial, and under the sentence of the Law which he has violated.—Nothing vindictive appears, but rather regret at the necessity of that restraint to which he has subjected himself, and in which regret (with time for reflection out of the reach of exciting causes and temptation) he can hardly fail to participate, and form resolutions, at least, against so great a falling off in future. If there are subjects strong enough to adhere to these resolutions, there can be little doubt of the efficacity of the system, and the full attainment of the object in view. It is however on this occasion that the saying of the Latin Poet is eminently true:—

——————— "facilis descensus Averni:
Noctus atque dies patet atri janua Ditis:
Sed revocare gradum, superasque evadere ad auras,
Hoc opus, hic labor est."

The Keeper or Superintendant of this Prison has given years of his labor for the object of improving Penitentiary imprisonment; he has travelled in Europe for that purpose, and is both bodily and mentally distinguishedly qualified to give the system a fair trial; and it is consolatory to find that he is placed out of that uncertainty which attends all Public Officers in Elective Governments in times when parties run high. It is understood that the government of the Prison, depends in a great measure, on the Judges, who hold their offices during good behaviour.

The Philadelphia system is in reality the work of the Friends or Quakers, and is founded on the mild and meek spirit of Christianity, well seconded by that active benevolence and order for which they are conspicuous.

The plan of the Cherry Hill Penitentiary admits of only one radius or an eighth part of the Cells being erected to render it applicable to a Penitentiary Prison, even a part of a radius

might be built to commence the system. The distance between the outer walls and the Cells is admitted to be too narrow.

One of the radii is now building without yards to the Cells, for the use of the Prisoner, and the upper story of the older radii have no yards; but two apartments are allowed, one to work in, and the other for sleeping. The residence of the Keeper and offices is considered as too far distant from the radii of Cells, and has been remedied in the plan of the New Jersey State Prison, by the same Architect, viz.: Mr. HAVILAND.

Saturday, 19*th*.—Left Philadelphia by Steam-boat at 2 P. M. and arrived at Trenton, the seat of Government of New Jersey, at 6 P. M., too late to wait on the Secretary of the State. The Governor, Mr. VROOM, was absent from town. We had however the good fortune to meet with ZACHARIAH ROSSELL, Esq. Clerk of the Supreme Court, and Adjutant of the State, who conducted us to the Penitentiary now building, on Mr. HAVILAND'S improved plan. Our object was to get a copy of this plan, but the Architect had gone to Pittsburgh, to inspect the work going on there for the Western Penitentiary of the State, on the Philadelphia plan. Mr. ROSSELL, and the Keeper undertook to procure a copy of it, and forward it to Mr. GEORGE LONG, Bookseller, New York, who is authorized to pay the expenses. (*Vide* plan since received: original cost one hundred and fifty dollars.)

The old Penitentiary, or Prison near the site of the new Building, is without accommodation for the Penitentiary system, and we declined visiting the Prisoners.

The new Building is of red cut sand stone, brought by the Canal about nine or ten miles. The style of architecture, Egyptian. The main front of the Building about ninety feet, with two wings of one hundred and seventy-five paces. The depth of the radii is one hundred and twenty paces. The Cells are about nine feet wide, eighteen deep, and fifteen in heighth, with light at the top in one end, the opening slanting downwards, well provided with ventilators. The plan is for five radii of Cells; two of which containing eighty-eight Cells, are to be finished immediately. No yards are provided.

The lot is situated South of the town, about a mile, and consists of twenty acres, more or less; the main road down the Delaware being, the Western boundary, and the Raritan and Delaware Canal the Eastern. The Building will accommodate one hundred and fifty Convicts, and, before the whole is completed, cost, it is supposed, about one hundred and forty-eight thousand dollars. Thirty thousand has been appropriated by Act passed 13th February, 1833. (*Vide* Laws of New Jersey,

1833.) This Act has adopted the Pennsylvania system, although objected to in the Senate, on the ground of its being more expensive than the Auburn system. These objections were yielded up however, on proof, of Prisoners whose term had expired, and who had reformed, and were doing well, and rearing young families, where they were not known, being ruined and compelled to return to crime, from their being known to other released Convicts with whom they had wrought in common in the same Penitentiary.

Monday, 21*st*.—At 10 A. M. left Trenton in the Stage for Brunswick, and thence in Steamer to New York, where we arrived at 6 P. M. Next day waited on the Recorder for a letter to the Agent and Keeper of the State Prison at Sing Sing, which having obtained, with a letter of introduction to Mr. WARD, Member of Congress for Westchester, from a friend in New York, we left that city on the 23rd, at 7 A. M. and arrived at 10. Same day visited the Penitentiary with Mr. WARD; and Mr. WILTSE, the Agent, having given us all the information we could desire, and promised to fill up the answers to our enquiries, we left him copies, the return to which being ample and satisfactory, together with the printed documents obtained, will give the necessary information on this interesting and most extensive establishment.—(*Vide* G. and plan.)

The Prison is erected on a farm, of one hundred and thirty three acres, purchased by the State, the whole substratum being a coarse marble or lime-stone, of a whitish blue. This farm is on the bank of the Hudson, thirty-one miles above New York, and about half a mile below the village of Sing Sing. The farm was called Mount Pleasant. There is no enclosure for the farm but a common board or rail fence; and the Convicts are in different parts of the farm at work in the quarries, but guards with loaded muskets are stationed on eminences, so as to view every part where the Convicts work. Few or no escapes take place. The whole system of the Prison government is based on great watchfulness and coercion, and conducted like an extensive manufactory. It is actually profitable, although not yet finished. All the building work was and is done by Convicts. The management appears to be excellent, and the Keeper one of those men whose personal character is the best security for the success of the system.

The Prisoners are remarkably healthy, stout, and turn out a great deal of work. Many of the shops are let to Contractors. The countenances of the Prisoners generally indicate little improvement in the state of their minds.

Thursday, 24*th*.—At 6 A. M. left Eager's Tavern at Sing Sing, and proceeded by an express to Peekskill, fourteen miles, to cross to Caldwell, below West Point, and take the morning Steam-boat for Albany. At 10 A. M. embarked on board the Erie Steamer, and arrived at Albany at 6 P. M.

Friday, 25*th*.—At 9 A. M. waited at the Secretary of State's office, but he being absent, applied to Mr. FLAGG, the Comptroller of the State, who had been several years Secretary. This gentleman, although our object did not directly concern his department of the Government, showed the most liberal disposition to forward our views: he went with us to the Governor, Mr. MARCY, who furnished us immediately with a letter to Colonel LEWIS, Agent of the State Prison at Auburn, requesting Mr. FLAGG and the Secretary of State to collect and transmit to us the various publications connected with our enquiries. The whole of the authorities here, as well as elsewhere, have indeed shown themselves not only willing, but anxious to forward our mission.

Saturday, 26*th*.—At 6 A. M. left for Saratoga Springs, where, in consequence of accounts from Canada of the severe prevalence of Cholera at Quebec and Montreal, and even in Upper Canada, we had determined to wait a few days for information, having ordered our letters and papers to be forwarded there for a week. Arrived at United States Hotel at 11 A. M.

Thursday, 31*st*.—Mr. MONDELET left the Springs for Montreal, *via* Lake George, in consequence of accounts of the continued increase of Cholera at Montreal, up to the preceding Monday.

Mr. MONDELET before his departure delivered up such papers as he had in his possession belonging to the mission.

Saturday, 2*nd August*.—Proceeded from Saratoga Springs in Rail-road Car for Schenectady to go to Auburn by Canal packet-boat. Arrived at Weedsport, on the Erie Canal, at 4 A. M. on Monday, the 4th; proceeded South, per Stage, seven miles to Auburn. Visited State Prison at 9, and delivered Governor MARCY's letter to Colonel LEWIS, Agent and Superintendant. Went over the Prison, Workshops, Cells, Kitchens, &c.; explained to Colonel LEWIS the objects of the mission, and left blanks to be filled up. Returned in the afternoon, and again went through the Prison, and examined the Prisoners as they marched in from their work, to take up their provisions, water, &c. for their supper, previous to being locked up for the night.

They consist of thirteen companies, and move in military order, lock up step, taking up the articles served out for them in succession, and proceed in the same order for supper; their conductors marching as officers, and placing themselves in their given positions. The Convicts here are dressed in striped jackets and trowsers and caps. At Sing Sing they have no distinguishing or uniform dress. These Prisoners are chiefly from the Western part of the State, they are not generally so stout as the men at Sing Sing, and have fewer Blacks among them. They have less of a determined downcast look than those at Sing Sing, and appear to be governed with greater tenderness. The Agent has strong hopes that many of them are reformed, and states that there is little repugnance among the people to employ Convicts whose term is expired. This is confirmed by other information. There is a Chaplain of the Presbyterian Church attached to the establishment, who appears to be a very intelligent and benevolent gentleman, and attentive to his duties in promoting religious instruction among the Convicts. The whole establishment is clean and well conducted; the workshops are managed like extensive manufactories upon the best plan, the work good, substantial, of neat pattern and well finished. Most branches are in the hands of such contractors as offer the most advantageous terms for the labor of the Convicts. (For detailed information, *Vide* answers to enquiries, (H.) and plan furnished by the Builder.)

The Building stands at the North West of the town, on the margin of a small creek, which serves to turn part of the machinery, and empties into Lake Ontario, from which Auburn is only about thirty miles distant West of Oswego. The Prison and walls are built of limestone, picked, with cut red sand stone round the doors and windows. The style of architecture is that of old castles in England with battlements, and a low Gothic steeple in the centre, surmounted by a wooden statue of a centinal in American uniform, with a musket. The Building fronts to the East, with two wings to the North and South containing the Cells. To the West and partly on the North and South there is a high stone wall against which are the workshops in sheds. The ground between the wings the centre and the Western wall, forms a clear square for drawing up and marching the Convicts in and out.

A Commission is now sitting appointed by Act of the Legislature to examine into the affairs of the Penitentiaries, and particularly on the complaints of the trades' people set forth in petitions presented at the last Session. A copy of the Report will be transmitted to the Lower Canada Commissioners, as well as the Regulations of the Prison, which are yet only in

manuscript, and are undergoing a revision preparatory to being printed.

Tuesday, 5th.—Left Auburn at 4 P. M. in Stage, to take the Canal packet of that night 10 P. M. for Schenectady.

Thursday, 7th.—Arrived at United States Hotel, Saratoga Springs, at 6 P. M.

Next morning, the 8th August, at 5 A. M. left the Springs to proceed up the Battenkill, across the mountains to Connecticut River, Charleston, and thence up that River to Stanstead, and down the St. Francis, and by Craig's Road to Quebec.

Saturday, 9th.—Stopped at Windsor, Vermont. State Prison but a small establishment, which it was not thought necessary to visit.

Tuesday, 12th.—Found Craig's Road impassable from fallen trees. Proceeded to La Baie St. Antoine, and down the South Shore to Lotbinière, crossed to Deschambault, and arrived at Carouge, Saturday, 16th August, at 6 P. M.

LIST

OF

PUBLICATIONS, DOCUMENTS, PLANS AND ESTIMATES

PROCURED BY THE

HON. D. MONDELET AND J. NEILSON, ESQUIRES,

Commissioners under the Act of the 4th Will. IV. Cap. 10,

AND

DEPOSITED BY THEM IN THE OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, CONFORMABLY TO THE SAID ACT.

1.—State of Maine.

Report of the Warden of the State Prison to 1st January, 1833.

Laws of the State of Maine, vol. 3, containing Statutes relating to the Penitentiary.

2.—Massachusetts.

Annual Reports of the Board of Managers of the Prison Discipline Society, June 2nd, 1826, to 1833, inclusive, containing ground plans of nineteen American Penitentiary Prisons, and Reports on said Prisons, 2 vols.

Eighth Annual Report do. with ground plan of a Prison of two hundred and twenty Cells.

Sixth do. with ground plan, Wethersfield State Prison.

Documents relative to State Prison, 1833. Senate—Report on Gaols, House of Representatives, 1833.

Laws of Massachusetts, 1834, containing latest Penitentiary Laws.

3.—Connecticut.

The public Statute Laws, 1827, containing Rules for State Prison.

The public Statute Laws, 1830, containing Criminal Code.
Report of State Prison, 1832.
Report on do. by the Assembly, 1833.

4.—City of New York.

Documents, House of Refuge, with view and plan.

5.—Pennsylvania.

A digest of Laws of Pennsylvania, from 1700 to 7th April, 1830, 1 vol.

Acts of the General Assembly relating to Eastern State Penitentiary, and to the new Prisons of the City and County of Philadelphia, (containing Regulations.)

First and second Annual Reports of the Inspectors of the Eastern Penitentiary, 1829 to 1831.

Report of joint Committee of Council and Assembly on erection of a new State Prison, January 12th, 1833, with estimate for three hundred Cells.

Reports, Eastern Penitentiary, 1832 to 1834, inclusive, three publications.

Report of the Commissioners on the Penal Code of Pennsylvania, January 4th, 1828.

Annual Reports, House of Refuge, Philadelphia, 1831, 1832, 1833, with view; three publications.

Constitution Philadelphia Prison Society, 1830.

Three Annual Reports do. to 1834, inclusive.

Register of Pennsylvania, March 20th, 1830, criminal business, &c.

Do. October 15th, 1831. Diseases and deaths, Prison.

Letter from Edward Livingston to Roberts Vaux, on Pennsylvania system.

Defence of solitary confinement, by Geore W. Smith, 1833.

6.—State of New Jersey.

Acts of General Assembly, 1832, containing Law for building Trenton Penitentiary.

Code of Criminal Laws prepared by virtue of a Resolution of the General Assembly, adopted 27th January, 1833.

Plans of the Trenton Penitentiary by Mr. Haviland, Architect, in tin box. (Original cost one hundred and fifty dollars.)

7.—State of New York—Sing Sing.

Inspectors Report to Senate, January 18th, 1833.

Inspectors Report to Senate, January 9th, 1834.

Report of Agent to Senate, March 14th, 1834, with early history and Regulations.

Communications to Senate from E. B. Cobb, relative to a State Prison for Female Convicts.

Report of Committee, Assembly, on memorials relative to State Prisons, March 31st, 1834.

Plan and elevation of Sing Sing Prison.

Auburn.

Annual Report of the Inspectors of the Auburn State Prison, January 8th, 1834, (to the Assembly.)

General plan and elevation of Auburn State Prison, furnished by the builder, and plan of four Cells and their connexion, (for practical use.)

French Commissioners' Report.

Du Système Penitentiaire aux Etats-Unis, par M. M. De Beaumont et A. De Tocqueville, Paris, 1833, with plans, estimates, &c.

Upper Canada.

Statute for maintenance and government of Penitentiary.

Statute to defray expenses of erecting.

Plan of Penitentiary furnished by the builder.

Miscellaneous Publications connected with Penitentiary Prisons.

Report—Pauper system, Massachusetts, 1833.
Ditto Ditto 1834.

State of New York Poor Laws, 1832.

Reports of the Secretary of State on Poor Returns, 1832 and 1833—two publications.

Report of the Massachusetts' States Lunatic Asylum, 1833.

Two Reports, Connecticut Retreat for the Insane—two publications—(view.)

Seventeenth Report, American Asylum, Deaf and Dumb, 1833.

Second Report, New Jersey Howard Society, January 29th, 1834.

J. NEILSON,
Commissioner.

Quebec, 22nd January, 1835.

[A.]

INFORMATION

DESIRED BY

HON. D. MONDELET AND J. NEILSON, ESQUIRES,

LOWER CANADA COMMISSIONERS;

1834,

AND ANSWERS OBTAINED.

(MAINE.)

1. Name of State, Place and Institution?—Maine, Thomastowr., State Prison.
2. When commenced?—In 1823.
3. When finished?—In 1824.
4. Under what authority?—Acts of Legislature.
5. Extent of ground or land belonging to the Institution?—Includes ten acres.
6. Extent of the building?—About two hundred and sixty feet long, thirty feet wide.
7. Of what materials?—Granite Cells, covering of wood.
8. What distance were the heavy materials brought; and what peculiar advantages or disadvantages for building?—Fifteen miles by water.
9. If built by contract, on public competition, or otherwise, under whose authority, and if any allowance was made for extra work, and by whom?—Under the direction of Honorable D. Rose, Agent; partly by contract, and by day labour.
10. Cost of ground?—Three thousand dollars.
11. Original cost of building?—About 30,000 dollars.
12. Cost of any additions since?—Estimated at 10,000 dollars.

13. Cost of furniture and utensils at first?—About 500 dollars.

14. Cost of first supply of tools and materials for the workshops?—About 1500 dollars.

15. Annual average of repairs?—About 600 dollars.

16. Out of what funds the original expenses were paid?—Done by Government.

17. Amount out of State funds, and how raised?—No answer.

18. Amount out of local funds, and how raised?—None.

19. Amount out of private funds?—None.

20. Number of Prisoners that can be accommodated?—200.

21. Number each year since commencement?—About 90.

22. Males, married?—No answer.
Do. single?—No answer.

23. Females, married?—No answer.
Do. single?—No answer.

24. Number at present?—No answer.

25. Males, married?—No answer.
Do. single?—No answer.

26. Females, married?—No answer.
Do. single?—No answer.

27. Age of commitment?—No answer.

28. Original employments?—No answer.

29. Number usually at work in each trade or employment, and hours per day?—Labourers in lime quarry, 15; smiths, 6; stonecutters, 35; shoemakers, 10; wheelwrights, 4; tailors, 5; oakum pickers, 5; 10 invalids, lumpers, &c.: longest day 14 hours, shortest, from rising to setting sun.

30. Number that can read and write?—Seven-eighths.

31. Known to have been intemperate?—Three-fourths.

32. Not natives of the United States?—About one half.

33. Crimes, Violence?—Very few.
Do. Theft?— } Three-fourths.
Do. Fraud?— }

34. Authority by which sentenced?—Court of Common Pleas, and State Judicial Court.

35. Duration of sentences?—Mostly short sentences, but few for more than two years.

36. For life, and for what crimes?—Two, arson, and assault to ravish.

37. Under what law or code sentenced?—No answer.

38. Escaped, and how?—No answer.

39. Retaken?—No answer.

40. Number discharged before expiration of sentence, by what authority, and on whose recommendation?—By Governor and Council, upon the recommendation of the Warden.

41. Discharged on expiration of sentence?—Three hundred and sixty.

42. Number of those re-committed, and after what time, or known to have been committed to other places of confinement? —No answer.

43. Nature of confinement in this Institution, and number of each description, viz:—

Solitary without labour?—None.

Solitary with labour singly?—No answer.

Solitary with labour in company?—No answer.

Classed confinement, and labour in company or classes? —No answer.

44. Nature of labour, Males?—Stone-cutting, shoe-making, digging stone, &c.

Do. Females?—Making clothes, washing, mending, &c.

45. Regulations and code of discipline, and by what authority made?—By Laws established by Governor and Council, and by the Warden.

46. Usual punishments for breach of regulations or discipline? —Solitary, on bread and water.

47. By whom adjudged?—The Warden.

48. Under whose authority, and by whom inflicted?—The Warden,—(directions.)

49. Annual number punished for the last three years?—But few.

50. Description of offences for which punishments were the most numerous?—Disobedience of orders, idleness, &c. &c.

51. Check over the Keepers or authority of the Prison?— Three Inspectors appointed by Governor and Council.

52. Average number of sick per annum?—Two per day.

53. Ditto deaths?—One during two years.

54. Prevailing maladies?—None; generally healthy.

55. Quality and quantity of food, clothing, and drink?—No. 1 beef, No. 1 pork, fish, potatoes, brown bread, beans and peas, of good quality.

56. Moral and religious instruction?—Chaplain preaches and attends Sabbath School, and occasionally during the week. The Warden and subordinate officers assist.

57. Interest of capital disbursed for establishment, at the legal rate of the place?—No answer.

58. Average annual expenditure from commencement, and from what fund?—No answer.

59. Description of the administration of the Institution, its officers, their titles, duties, salaries and allowances?—Warden, 700 dollars; Deputy Warden, 340 dollars; Clerk and Commis-

sary, 400 dollars; Superintendant of Stone-cutters, 400 dollars; Blacksmith, 400 dollars; Shoemaker, 340 dollars; eight Overseers and Guards at 280 dollars per annum. No allowances.

60. Ditto Servants, their number, wages and allowances? —None.

61. Annual expenses of Prisoners' clothing and bedding? —No answer.

62. Annual expenses for food and drink?—About 3,400 dollars.

63. Average cost of each Prisoner, calculating the whole annual cost of the establishment?—No answer.

64. Annual average of purchases for work shops for the last three years?—No answer.

65. Average of sales ditto?—Vide Report.

66. Market value of goods on hand?—Vide Report.

67. Laws regulating the establishment?—Vide Laws of Maine deposited.

68. Plan and description of the establishment?—No answer.

69. If there are any complaints of trades-people and tradesmen or others, in the neighbourhood, in respect to the establishment, and what?—None.

70. Complaints of Prisoners, their nature, and means of redress?—No answer.

71. If Prisoners generally are satisfied or disatisfied with their treatment?—Are satisfied.

72. General opinion as to the advantages or disadvantages of the Institution?—No answer.

73. Have crimes, throughout the State, increased or diminished since the establishment, in proportion to the population? —Decreased one half. Population increased about the same.

74 —Annual emigration from foreign countries into the State? —No Returns.

75. Do persons discharged readily obtain confidence and employment on certificates from Institution?—Always obtain employment; and good wishes if disposed to labour.

76. What number are known to have got employment and proved worthy of confidence, during the last three years?—Do not know.

77. What number are known to have proved worthless, during the last three years?—Do not know.

78. What is the general opinion of those discharged?—No answer.

79. What other places of confinement are there in the State, and usual number of Prisoners in each?—County Gaols.

80. Population of the State?—Four hundred thousand.

81. Proportion of population that can read and write?—Nearly all.

82. Proportion of children at school?—Nearly all from five to fifteen.

83. Proportion of families owners of real estate, and such as are not owners?—The greatest number.

84. Number of Paupers?—Few.

85. Rate of wages of labour, without board, for the last three years, per day?—One dollar.

86. Rate with board, per month, do.?—Sixteen dollars.

87. Rate of board for labourers, do.?—From 150 cents to 200 cents per week.

88. General remarks or explanations referring to any particular number of the foregoing enquiries?—None.

[B.]

INFORMATION

DESIRED BY

HON. D. MONDELET AND J. NEILSON, ESQUIRES,

LOWER CANADA COMMISSIONERS;

1834,

AND ANSWERS OBTAINED.

(MASSACHUSETTS.)

1. Name of State, Place and Institution?—Massachusetts, Charlestown, State Prison.

2. When commenced?—Old Prison 1802 or 1803; New Prison 1826.

3. When finished?—1804–5. New Prison finished in 1829.

4. Under what authority?—Legislature of the Commonwealth.

5. Extent of ground or land belonging to the Institution?—About five acres of upland and an extensive range of flats.

6. Extent of the building?—Old Prison two hundred feet long, forty-four feet wide, four stories high. New Prison two hundred feet long, forty-six feet wide, four stories high. Three hundred and four Cells for solitary confinement at night.

7. Of what materials?—Granite.

8. What distance were the heavy materials brought; and what peculiar advantages or disadvantages for building?—From ten to twenty-five miles by water. The stone were landed on the Prison Wharf and carted into the yard.

9. If built by contract, on public competition, or otherwise, under whose authority, and if any allowance was made for extra work, and by whom?—The old Prison was constructed under

the direction of Commissioners appointed for that purpose.—The new Prison was built under the superintendance of the Warden. The Convicts performed the labour, under the immediate direction of a Master Mason and Carpenter.

10. Cost of ground?—2000 dollars.

11. Original cost of building?—Old Prison, walls and Shops, 170,000 dollars. New Prison, Cookery and Chapel, 86,252 dollars 35 cents. (The labour of the Convicts charged to the State at 50 cents per diem.)

12. Cost of any additions since?—No additions have been made since the erection of the solitary Prison.

13. Cost of furniture and utensils at first?—Unknown to the present Governor of the Prison.

14. Cost of first supply of tools and materials for the workshops?—Unknown to the present Governor of the Prison.

15. Annual average of repairs?—Cannot answer this question definitely; some years the amount would exceed 1000 dollars, and others not 100 dollars.

16. Out of what funds the original expenses were paid?—Funds appropriated by Legislative enactment.

17. Amount out of State funds, and how raised?—Answered to question 16.

18. Amount out of local funds, and how raised?—None.

19. Amount out of private funds?—None.

20. Number of Prisoners that can be accommodated?—About 400 in the old Prison, and 304 in the new or solitary Prison.

21. Number each year since commencement?—Prison year commences 1st October. From 1st October, 1829, to 30th September, 1830, 115 Convicts received: from ditto 1830, to ditto 1831, 71 ditto: from ditto 1831, to ditto 1832, 76 ditto: from ditto 1832, to ditto 1833, 119—381.

22. Males, married; ditto single?—Of 220 Prisoners 1st October, 1832, 103 had been married, of whom 82 then had wives living. The proportion is probably about the same at present.

23. Females, married; ditto single?—None.

24. Number at present?—263 Convicts in Prison.

25. Males, married; ditto single?—Unknown.

26. Females, married; ditto single?—None.

27. Age of commitment?—According to the Report made up in October, 1833, of those then in Prison, under 15, none; from 15 to 21, 19; from 21 to 31, 105; from 31 to 41, 76; from 41 and upwards, 50—250 in Prison at that time. The ages average probably the same at present.

28. Original employments?—Of the 119 received during the year ending the 30th September, 1833, 69 reported they had

no trade, and the remainder had worked at various mechanical trades.

Residents of towns?—From Boston, 60.

Ditto of country?—From Courts out of Boston, 59, during the period above mentioned.

29. Number usually at work in each trade or employment, and hours per day?—Stone-cutters, about 90 to 100; Cabinet-makers 50; Brush-makers, 25; Coopers, 3; Hatters, 6; Black and White-smiths, 25; Tinners, 4; Shoe-makers, about 10; Tailors, 3. The remainder of the Convicts, cooking, baking, lumpers, sick, &c.—work from eight to fourteen hours per day.

30. Number that can read and write?—Unknown, (probably same as in Maine.)

31. Known to have been intemperate?—Presume three-fourths of all committed.

32. Not natives of the United States?—Of the number received since 1st October, 1829, and up to 30th September, 1833, 83 are Foreigners.

33. Crimes?—Violence, burglary, &c. 31; theft, 292; fraud, counterfeiting, &c. 32—355, and 26 for other offences, from 1st October, 1829, to 30th September, 1833.

34. Authority by which sentenced?—Supreme Judicial, Common Pleas and Municipal Courts.

35. Duration of sentences?—Of those in Prison 1st October, 1833:—Under 1 year, 6; from 1 to 2, 25; from 2 to 3, 59; from 3 to 4, 32; from 4 to 5, 19; from 5 to 10. 61; from 10 to 21, 8.

36. For life, and for what crimes?—Forty; for having been three times committed to this Prison; for murder, sentence commuted; for burglary and highway robbery.

37. Under what Law or Code sentenced?—The Statute Laws of the Commonwealth.

38. Escaped, and how?—Since 1804–5, 19. Escapes have generally taken place from the Prison Wharf, or by scaling the walls. No escapes since three years.

39. Retaken?—Not known.

40. Number discharged before expiration of sentence, by what authority, and on whose recommendation?—From 1st October, 1829, to 30th September, 1833, 36. Whole number discharged since 1804–5, to 30th September, 1833, by remission of sentence, 428, by Governor and Executive Council of the Commonwealth, by recommendation of relatives and friends principally. Occasionally Officers of Prison may obtain discharges.

41. Discharged on expiration of sentence?—Whole number

discharged by expiration of sentence since 1804–5, to 30th September, 1833, 1855.

42. Number of those re-committed, and after what time, or known to have been committed to other places of confinement?—The only information that can be given with any accuracy, may be found in the printed Report for the year ending the 30th September, 1833. Few returned since new Prison was established, perhaps eight or ten.

43. Nature of confinement in this Institution, and number of each description, viz:—

Solitary without labour?—None except when first committed, or for offences within the Prison.

Solitary with labour singly?—None.

Solitary with labour in company?—All.

Classed confinement, and labour in company or classes?—No classification. (Not allowed to speak, but it occurs at work.)

44. Nature of labour, males, ditto females?—Answered in No. 29.

45. Regulations and code of discipline, and by what authority made?—Similar to the Auburn discipline; by Legislative enactment, and by Board of Inspectors, subject to the approbation of the Governor and Council.

46. Usual punishments for breach of regulations or discipline?—Whipping and solitary confinement.

47. By whom adjudged?—The Warden; but if a case requires a greater amount of punishment than ten stripes and ten days solitary confinement, the Inspectors only can order further punishment.

48. Under whose authority and by whom inflicted?—Warden or Deputy. Punishment by stripes inflicted by the Watchmen.

49. Annual number punished for the last three years?—From sixty to seventy, mostly very slight punishments.

50. Description of offences for which punishments were the most numerous?—Insolence, injury to property, laziness, talking, &c.

51. Check over the Keepers or authority of the Prison?—Warden and Board of Inspectors. Governor and Council, and Legislature. (Vide Law 11th March, 1828.)

52. Average number of sick per annum?—Average number daily on the sick list about six.

53. Ditto deaths?—For the last ten years about six a year.

54. Prevailing maladies?—Pulmonary Consumption. Stone cutting considered as contributing to the disease.

55. Quality and quantity of food, clothing, and drink?—One lb beef, or twelve oz. pork, thirty to thirty-four oz. rye and

Indian bread, potatoes, rye coffee, and hop beer. Satinet jacket, trowsers and vest; shirt socks, shoes and cap.

56. Moral and religious instruction?—Is afforded by the Chaplain, who has prayers and reading portions of Scripture morning and evening of every day, the Convicts being all assembled in the Chapel. A Sabbath School is open every Sabbath, and also religious services are performed by the Chaplain.

57. Interest of capital disbursed for establishment, at the legal rate of the place?—Unknown. (6 per cent.)

58. Average annual expenditure from commencement, and from what fund?—Unknown. Funds derived from the earnings of the Convicts, which, if deficient, is made up by Legislative appropriations. The expenditure for the year ending 1833, 26,126 dollars 96 cents.

59. Description of the administration of the Institution, its officers, their titles, duties, salaries and allowances?—Three Inspectors, 100 dollars per annum each; one Warden, 1500 dollars; one Deputy, 800 dollars; one Clerk, 800 dollars; Chaplain, 800 dollars; Superintendant of Stone department, 1300 dollars; Assistant, 600 dollars; Physician, 350 dollars; seven Turnkeys, 500 dollars each; ten Watchmen, 400 dollars each. No perquisites.

60. Ditto Servants, their number, wages and allowances?—None.

61. Annual expenses of Prisoners' clothing and bedding?—From 2,300 dollars to 3,000 dollars.

62. Annual expenses for food and drink?—Each ration costs about eight cents.

63. Average cost of each Prisoner, calculating the whole annual cost of the establishment?—About 37 dollars per Convict per annum.

64. Annual average of purchases for work shops for the last three years?—Cannot be answered conveniently.

65. Average of sales ditto?—The only information that can be conveniently given on this subject, may be found in the disbursement and income account in the Annual Reports.

66. Market value of goods on hand?—Have but few goods on hand.

67. Laws regulating the establishment?—Too numerous and lengthy to be detailed. (Vide Laws–Massachusetts.)

68. Plan and description of the establishment?—Too lengthy to be given in full. The yards within the granite walls is about five hundred feet in length, and from two hundred to two hundred and fifty wide.

69. If there are any complaints of trades-people and trades-

men or others, in the neighbourhood, in respect to the establishment, and what?—Little or no complaints are made against the business operations of the Prison by persons outside, or in the community at large.

70. Complaints of Prisoners, their nature, and means of redress?—Few complaints are made; they can appeal to the Board of Inspectors: it is rarely that they have occasion to go beyond the Warden.

71. If Prisoners generally are satisfied or disatisfied with their treatment?—Appear generally satisfied.

72. General opinion as to the advantages or disadvantges of the Institution?—The present mode of confinement and discipline is thought to have excited a very salutary effect upon those who have been subjected to it.

73. Have crimes, throughout the State, increased or diminished since the establishment, in proportion to the population?—They have diminished.

74. Annual emigration from foreign countries into the State?—Unknown.

75. Do persons discharged readily obtain confidence and employment on certificates from Institution?—Certificates are not often required or given: most or all those discharged would find encouragement if they conducted themselves with propriety, and abstained from strong drink.

76. What number are known to have got employment and proved worthy of confidence, during the last three years?... Have no means of knowing.

77. What number are known to have proved worthless, during the last three years?—Unknown.

78. What is the general opinion of those discharged?—Much more favorable since the occupation of the new or solitary Prison, and the establishment of the present system of discipline, than formerly.

79. What other places of confinement are there in the State, and usual number of Prisoners in each?—There is a Gaol in nearly all of the Counties, and in several a House of Correction; number of Prisoners unknown.

80. Population of the State?—Six hundred and ten thousand and fourteen, according to the Census of 1830.

81. Proportion of population that can read and write?—Nearly all; about two hundred besides foreigners that cannot read.

82. Proportion of children at school?—Estimated at 175,000; one-seventh of these irregularly. Proportion one in three and a half.

83. Proportion of families owners of real estate, and such a are not owners?—The great majority.

84. Number of paupers?—Few.

85. Rate of wages of labour, without board, for the last three years, per day?—No answer.

86. Rate with board, per month, do.?—Farm Servants, from twelve to fifteen dollars, and board day labourers, one dollar to one and a half.

87. Rate of board for labourers, do.?—From one dollar fifty cents to three dollars per week.

88. General remarks or explanations referring to any particular number of the foregoing enquiries?—Understanding that this paper would probably be called for in three or four hours after it was left, the answers were given very hastily, and are not quite so particular and perfect as they would have been if more time had been afforded for that purpose.

[C.]

(MASSACHUSETTS—CHARLESTOWN.)

Five holes in each Cell at the opposite corners at the top.—Rebate cut for the doors to shut in.

Height of the Cells, 7.0.—Height of the Doors, 6.0.—Holes cast in the Iron Pillars for the Railing.—Four Stories high.—Whole number of Cells, 304.

[D.]

INFORMATION

DESIRED BY

HON. D. MONDELET AND J. NEILSON, ESQUIRES,

LOWER CANADA COMMISSIONERS;

1834,

AND ANSWERS OBTAINED.

(CONNECTICUT.)

1. Name of State, Place and Institution ?—Connecticut, Wethersfield, Connecticut State Prison.
2. When commenced ?—In 1825.
3. When finished ?—In 1827.
4. Under what authority ?—Of three Commissioners appointed by the Legislature.
5. Extent of ground or land belonging to the Institution ?—Sixteen acres.
6. Extent of the building ?—257 feet long, wide, high.
7. Of what materials ?—External walls, stone; roof, wood, slated; cells, brick.
8. What distance were the heavy materials brought; and what peculiar advantages or disadvantages for building ?—The stone for main building and wall brought about twelve miles. The bricks were made on the land upon which the Prison now stands.
9. If built by contract, on public competition, or otherwise, under whose authority, and if any allowance was made for extra work, and by whom ?—No allowance was made for extra work. Work all done by contract.
10. Cost of ground ?—Probably about 1600 dollars.

Five holes in each Cell at the opposite corners at the top.—Rebate cut for the doors to shut in.

Iron Pillars.

11. Original cost of building? } —Prison, Warden's apart-
12. Cost of any additions since? } ments, yard walls, shops, &c. about 40,000 dollars, including the addition made in 1830 of about eighty feet of the the main building, containing cells and rooms for females.

13. Cost of furniture and utensils at first?—No answer.

14. Cost of first supply of tools and materials for the work-shops?—I cannot tell.

15. Annual average of repairs?—About 100 dollars.

16. Out of what funds the original expenses were paid?—From State Treasury:

17. Amount out of State funds, and how raised?—All.

18. Amount out of local funds, and how raised?—None.

19. Amount out of private funds?—None.

20. Nunber of prisoners that can be accommodated?—232 cells, and space for 50 more.

21. Number each year since commencement?—In 1830, 167; 1831, 182; 1832, 192; 1834, 181.

22. Males, married?—No answer.
Do. single?—No answer.

23. Females, married?—No answer.
Do. single?—No answer.

24. Number at present?—181.

25. Males, married?—43.
Do. single?—138.

26. Females, married?—17 (15 for adultery.)
Do. single?—6.

27. Age of commitment?—One half of the whole number between the ages of 20 and 30. (See Annual Report, viz., Report 1832 and 1831, in Sixth Annual Report Prison Discipline Society.)

28. Original employments?—Great majority have been either sailors, servants, or day laborers. None of either the liberal professions. More shoemakers than of any other trade; the reason of this may be, they can easily move from place to place, work by the piece, &c.

29. Number usually at work in each trade or employment, and hours per day?—No answer.

30. Number that can read and write?—84 in 100 able to read when they come to prison, and 58 in 100 can write.

31. Known to have been intemperate?—Somewhat more than three-fourths of the whole number.

32. Not natives of the United States?—See Annual Reports.

33. Crimes?—From 1790 to 1834, crimes on which conviction took place may be classified as follows: Violence, 196; Theft, 716; Fraud, 207; total, 1119 crimes,—causing an ex-

pense to the State of 84,898 dollars for apprehension and conviction of the perpetrators.

34. Authority by which sentenced?—Courts. (See Statutes for 1830, in which the criminal causes of the State are condensed and revised.)

35. Duration of sentences?—Since 1790 they have averaged three years, besides 43 convictions for life. (See Annual Reports.)

36. For life, and for what crimes?—Since 1790, for life, 43 individuals, and all for crime against person.

37. Under what law or code sentenced?—With few exceptions under the State Laws.

38. Escaped, and how?—No escape ever effected.

39. Retaken?—No answer.

40. Number discharged before expiration of sentence, by what authority, and on whose recommendation?—About seven a-year have been pardoned for the last five years by the Legislature.

41. Discharged on expiration of sentence?—From 40 to 50 per annum.

42. Number of those re-committed, and after what time, or known to have been committed to other places of confinement?—In six and a half years, 200 were discharged and 18 re-committed, of whom all but six had previously been the inmates of the Newgate Prison.

43. Nature of confinement in this Institution, and number of each description, viz.:—

Solitary without labour?—None, except for punishment.

Solitary with labour singly?—None.

Solitary with labour in company?—All solitary at night and when taking their food; and at labour by day in companies of from 15 to 50, under the constant inspection of an Overseer.

44. Nature of labour, Males?—Cane chair seating, carpentry, blacksmithing, shoemaking.

Do. Females?—Cooking, washing, mending, binding shoes, or segar making.

45. Regulations and code of discipline, and by what authority made?—(See Statutes passed in Session, May, 1827, herewith enclosed, chapter 27, page 161.)

46. Usual punishments for breach of regulations or discipline?—Solitary confinement in dark cells on spare diet, and, rarely, stripes not exceeding ten for the same offence. (*Vide* Statute as in No. 45, section 8.)

47. By whom adjudged?—By the Warden, or in his absence by the Deputy Warden.

48. Under whose authority, and by whom inflicted —Same answer as 47. (See Statutes as above.)

49. Annual number punished for the last three years?—No account kept.

50. Description of offences for which punishments were the most numerous?—No answer.

51. Check over the Keepers or authority of the Prison?—Directors over Warden; Warden controls other Officers. (N.B. It appears in Statute above cited, Session 1827, chap. 27, that one Director must inspect the prison weekly. The prisoners communicate freely with him.

52. Average number of sick per annum?—Perhaps on an average one per day, sick enough to be in the Hospital.

53. Ditto deaths?—During the year ending 1st April, 1834, only one death. Mortality less than two per cent on an average since the Prison was established.

54. Prevailing maladies?—Acute diseases, extremely rare.

55. Quality and quantity of food, cl thing, and drink?—One ℔ beef, one ℔ rye bread, besides sufficient quantity of potatoes for dinner and breakfast, besides mush and molasses for supper.

56. Moral and religious instruction?—Prayers morn and eve; preaching on Sabbath; use of proper books; teaching in cells and in Sabbath School.

57. Interest of capital disbursed for establishment, at the legal rate of the place?—The only capital disbursed by the State was about forty thousand dollars, and legal interest six per cent per annum, or two thousand four hundred dollars on forty thousand dollars.

58. Average annual expenditure from commencement, and from what Fund?—The Prison has always more than paid its own expenses. (Vide Reports for 1831 and 1832, enclosed.)

59. Description of the administration of the Institution, its officers, their titles, duties, salaries and allowances?—Three Directors, chosen by the Legislature, appoint the Warden, Chaplain and Physician. The Warden nominates all the other Officers, viz.: Keepers and Watchmen, and Deputy Warden. The Officers are, the three first and one last named, together with five Guard or Watchmen, and five Keepers. Total, 14. The Salaries are, Warden, one thousand dollars; Deputy Warden, five hundred dollars; Chaplain, four hundred dollars; Physician, two hundred dollars; Keepers, from three hundred to four hundred dollars; Guard, fifteen dollars per month, and board. (See the Statute cited No. 45.)

60. Ditto Servants, their number, wages and allowances?—None.

61. Annual expenses of Prisoners' clothing and bedding? —Average expense, about four dollars each per annum.

62. Annual expenses for food and drink?—From six to seven cents per day.

63. Average cost of each Prisoner, calculating the whole annual cost of the establishment?—About 50 dollars per annum, or nearly 14 cents per day.

64. Annual average of purchases for work shops for the last three years?—The labour of the Convicts is, for the most part, farmed out to Contractors at a certain price per diem; and the rough materials being furnished by the Contractors, it is not easy to ascertain their value. (Vide Report of Directors in Sixth Report Prison Discipline Society.)

65. Average of sales ditto?—Vide 64.

66. Market value of goods on hand?—Vide 64.

67. Laws regulating the establishment?—See By-Laws in Report for 1830.

68. Plan and description of the establishment?—See cover of the Prison Discipline Reports. (Nos. 5 and 6.)

69. If there are any complaints of trades-people and tradesmen or others, in the neighbourhood, in respect to the establishment, and what?—None at all. The Contractors usually vend the articles manufactured here, in other places,

70. Complaints of Prisoners, their nature, and means of redress?—Depend on the Prisoner's disposition, and are made to the Warden or Directors, either of whom have power of redress. (A Director visits the Prisoner weekly. The Prisoners know that they may always commune to him apart, any grievance, and they do so freely.)

71. If Prisoners generally are satisfied or disatisfied with their treatment?—With past treatment generally satisfied, with present not so well.

72. General opinion as to the advantages or disadvantges of the Institution?—Great improvement over any mode of punishment ever practised in the State before.

73. Have crimes, throughout the State, increased or diminished since the establishment, in proportion to the population?—Crimes have not increased lately beyond the proportion of population; but the number of criminal convictions have increased, owing to a change in the Law which has increased the number of indictable offences.

74. Annual emigration from foreign countries into the State? —Unknown.

75. Do persons discharged readily obtain confidence and employment on certificates from Institution?—Not customary to give certificates. Good conduct seldom fails to procure confidence and employment for the discharged..

76. What number are known to have got employment and proved worthy of confidence, during the last three years?—No pains have been taken to ascertain this fact. It is more common to hear good than bad report respecting the discharged Prisoners.

77. What number are known to have proved worthless, during the last three years?—*Vide supra.*

78. What is the general opinion of those discharged?—Generally satisfied with their treatment, and resolve to do better. (They are regarded with great suspicion, and not often employed in this vicinity.)

79. What other places of confinement are there in the State, and usual number of Prisoners in each?—County Gaols in which the number varies; never large at any one time, nor for a long period.

80. Population of the State?—In 1830, the population of Connecticut was Two hundred and ninety-seven thousand, seven hundred and eleven.

81. Proportion of population that can read and write?—No accurate returns; but as common Schools are supported by public fund in each town, it is supposed there are *very few persons* who cannot read and write.

82. Proportion of Children at School?—There are about ninety thousand Children between the ages of four and sixteen, who are reported to the Commissioners of the School Fund. That Fund yields about eighty thousand dollars per annum, or nearly a dollar for each child in the State between those ages.

83. Proportion of families owners of real estate, and such as are not owners?—No official returns; but the farms are small: few persons own more than one hundred and fifty to three hundred acres.

84. Number of paupers?—No returns taken; they are supported by the respective towns, and are very few.

85. Rate of wages of labour, without board, for the last three years, per day?—Never hire without board; day labourers have about a dollar and board.

86. Rate with board, per month, do.?—Ten dollars is a fair estimate.

87. Rate of board for labourers, do.?—Say one dollar fifty cents per week.

88. General remarks or explanations referring to any particular number of the foregoing enquiries?—There is remarkable vigilance in the detection of crimes in this State, and the civil authorites are proverbial for success. It is seldom that an offender escapes. The Legislature pardon convicts, and not always in accordance with the opinions of the Courts of Justice.

[E.]

INFORMATION

DESIRED BY

HON. D. MONDELET AND J. NEILSON, ESQUIRES,

LOWER CANADA COMMISSIONERS;

1834,

AND ANSWERS OBTAINED.

(NEW YORK HOUSE OF REFUGE.)

1. Name of State, Place and Institution?—New York House of Refuge.

2. When commenced?—Commenced to be occupied 1st January, 1824.

3. When finished?—They commenced first to occupy a building which the Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents purchased from the United States.

4. Under what authority?—A Society of benevolent gentlemen, who select their managers annually. Governed by the Laws of the State Legislature, made expressly for the purpose. See documents of the House of Refuge, page 303.

5. Extent of ground or land belonging to the Institution?—Two and a quarter acres, enclosed by a stone wall, seventeen feet high; three or four acres around outside of the wall.

6. Extent of the building?—See frontispiece of buildings in documents; male and female houses one hundred and fifty feet long, thirty-two feet wide: the building that unites the two, about one hundred by thirty feet.

7. Of what materials?—Stone and brick; principally the former.

8. What distance were the heavy materials brought; and what peculiar advantages or disadvantages for building?—Rocks near at hand quarried.

9. If built by contract, on public competition, or otherwise, under whose authority, and if any allowance was made for extra work, and by whom?—Built by contract; a few good mechanics selected in pairs, a mason and a carpenter, who were allowed to estimate. The competition was not extensive.

10. Cost of ground?—Six thousand dollars to the United States, who held it as an Arsenal. The ground belongs to the Corporation of the City of New York, who give the use of it to the Society, so long as they continue to use it as a House of Refuge.

11. Original cost of building?— } About 40,000 dollars for
12. Cost of any additions since?— } all, as it now is.

13. Cost of furniture and utensils at first?—Our furniture is small and simple.

14. Cost of first supply of tools and materials for the workshops?—We put our children out to contractors for twelve and a half cents per day of eight hours labour, who furnish their own tools.

15. Annual average of repairs?—No answer.

16. Out of what funds the original expenses were paid?—Private donations to the amount of from thirty to forty thousand dollars, until the State was satisfied of its importance and utility.

17. Amount out of State funds, and how raised?—Eight thousand dollars per annum from the Marine Fund, collected from foreign passengers. Four thousand dollars per annum, from the Excise Fund of the City of New York, in place of one dollar fifty cents taxed by the Legislature upon retailers of ardent spirits,—a compromise between the Managers and the City Corporation, or Common Council. Five hundred dollars license exacted from three Theatres.

18. Amount out of local funds, and how raised?—All.

19. Amount out of private funds?—The above with the children's earnings, is sufficient to support the Institution, hence we make no more private collections.

20. Number of Prisoners that can be accommodated?—The inmates or children that can be accommodated, are—boys, two hundred and sixty, girls, sixty-eight.

21. Number each year since commencement?—See documents.

22. Males, married?—All children.
Ditto single?—All children.
23. Females, married?—All children.
Ditto single?—All children.
24. Number at present?—Boys, one hundred and seventy three, girls, fifty-two.
25. Males, married?—Children.
Ditto single?—Children.
26. Females, married?—Children.
Ditto single?—Children.
27. Age of commitment?—The Statute makes sixteen the extent. Seldom less than eight years old.
28. Original employments?—They of course being children have never become masters of any trade; but as it is desirable to avoid bringing children before a formal Court, the Law has made provision, allowing Commissioners of the Poor, Magistrates, &c. to send them under the head of vagrancy, yet crime in some degree is generally known to be informally connected.

Residents of towns; ditto of country?—We receive from every County in the State.

29. Number usually at work in each trade or employment, and hours per day?—About one hundred at cane chair seat making; and fifty at making brass nails. We make our own shoes and clothes by the children, who are cooks, servants, &c.
30. Number that can read and write?— See Reports in documents.
31. Known to have been intemperate?—A few.
32. Not natives the United States?—Little over one half. See Reports.
33. Crimes?—Pilfering and vagrancy.
34. Authority by which sentenced?—Courts of Oyer and Terminer, General and Special Sessions, Police Magistrates, and Commissioners of the Alms House. The two latter only send from the County of New York.
35. Duration of sentences?—No limitation. During the pleasure of the Managers,—which is guided by their improvement and reformation; generally averaging from twelve to fifteen months, some not so long, some longer.
36. For life, and for what crimes?—None.
37. Under what law or code sentenced?—Answered before.
38. Escaped, and how?—A few; some have watched opportunities when ladders are in use by Mechanics, plank, &c.
39. Retaken?—The greater part of them.

40. Number discharged before expiration of sentence, by what authority, and on whose recommendation?—No one has a right to discharge, except the proper Committee, selected from the Board of Managers for that purpose, called the Indenturing Committee, save the Governor of the State, who has never discharged one.

41. Discharged on expiration of sentence?—No answer.

42. Number of those re-committed, and after what time, or known to have been committed to other places of confinement?—Very few are re-committed; a few very hard boys have found their way to the State Prison.

43. Nature of confinement in this Institution, and number of each description, viz:—As a family of children, under strict, but mild government, as a School.

Solitary without labour?—Now and then a case profits by it.

Solitary with labour singly?—None.

Solitary with labour in company?—None.

Classed confinement, and labour in company or classes?—No answer.

44. Nature of labour, Males?— } Before explained.
Do. Females?— }

45. Regulations and code of discipline, and by what authority made?—See documents under the head of "Rules and Regulations."

46. Usual punishments for breach of regulations or discipline?—Various, as the case may appear to require.

47. By whom adjudged?—Superintendant; and if he is absent, the Assistant Superintendant. Females, Superintendant; generally the Matron if he is absent.

48. Under whose authority, and by whom inflicted?—By none but those who adjudge.

49. Annual number punished for the last three years?—No particular record is kept. Less however than the public would judge, considering the class of children we have.

50. Description of offences for which punishments were the most numerous?—Want of industry, aptness to talk when it is forbidden.

51. Check over the Keepers or authority of the Prison?—Frequent Committees that visit the House.

52. Average number of sick per annum?—About three per cent.

53. Ditto deaths?—Not quite half per cent.

54. Prevailing maladies?—Fever and ague the greatest, yet we may say now, our health is a proverb.

55. Quality and quantity of food, clothing, and drink?—Food in cold weather, mush or Indian meal pudding, and molasses, morning and evening; fresh beef soup, made good and nutritious for dinner, five days per week, with good bread and potatoes. Sunday dinner, corned beef, pork, bread and vegetables. Friday, codfish and potatoes.

56. Moral and religious instruction?—Prayers morning and evening, Sunday School, and two sermons on the Sabbath, besides occasional private moral advice and conversation.

57. Interest of capital disbursed for establishment, at the legal rate of the place?—See Reports.

58. Average annual expenditure from commencement, and from what fund?—See Reports.

59. Description of the administration of the Institution, its officers, their titles, duties, salaries and allowances?—Superintendant, 1600 dollars per annum, house and garden; assistant ditto, 600 dollars; Teacher and Preacher, 600 dollars, or 500 dollars, and board; Gate-keeper, 150 dollars, and fare of the house; Carman, 150 dollars, and ditto; Matron, 300 dollars, and board; assistant ditto, 200 dollars, and ditto.

60. Ditto Servants, their number, wages and allowances?—All told.

61. Annual expenses of Prisoners' clothing and bedding?—
62. Annual expenses for food and drink?—
For all about nine and a half cents per day.

63. Average cost of each Prisoner, calculating the whole annual cost of the establishment?—Calculate from Treasurer's Report.

64. Annual average of purchases for work shops for the last three years?—This we have nothing to do with.

65. Average of sales ditto?—No answer.

66. Market value of goods on hand?—No answer.

67. Laws regulating the establishment?—See a selection of of them from the New York revised Statutes, in documents page 303.

68. Plan and description of the establishment?—See the plate in documents. For every child a separate room to sleep in, workshops, kitchen, school-room, chapel, dining hall.

69. If there are any complaints of trades-people and tradesmen or others, in the neighbourhood, in respect to the establishment, and what?—We know of none.

70. Complaints of inmates, their nature, and means of redress?

—Love of liberty, and restraint, the only difficulty they have to encounter with. To the Superintendant in a few instances, children have applied to one of the Managers, who are often here. Parents visit quarterly. They can apply to the Managers, or bring up a child before the Recorder, or other Judges, by a writ of Habeas Corpus.

71. If Prisoners generally are satisfied or disatisfied with their treatment?—They generally love their officers as parents, and often visit them when free.

72. General opinion as to the advantages or disadvantages of the Institution?—Growing in public favor.

73. Have crimes, throughout the State, increased or diminished since the establishment, in proportion to the population?—It is often said by citizens, that many crimes, formerly committed by children, have decreased.

74.—Annual emigration from foreign countries into the State?—No answer.

75. Do persons discharged readily obtain confidence and employment on certificates from Institution?—Public feeling is very favorable, and many have risen to stations of profit, and have much confidence placed in them.

76. What number are known to have got employment and proved worthy of confidence, during the last three years?—A great many.

77. What number are known to have proved worthless, during the last three years?—A few.

78. What is the general opinion of those discharged?—Generally favorable, or the great majority of them gain this favour.

79. What other places of confinement are there in the State, and usual number of Prisoners in each?—County Gaols, Penitentiaries, Bridewells, State Prisons.

80. Population of the State?—No answer.

81. Proportion of population that can read and write?—Our Schools have so increased, that it almost amounts to a crime, if a person cannot read and write. Not so formerly.

82. Proportion of children at school?—See Massachusetts.

83. Proportion of families owners of real estate, and such as are not owners?—See Massachusetts.

84. Number of Paupers?—See Massachusetts.

85. Rate of wages of labour, without board, for the last three years, per day?—Common day labourers in the City from 75 cents to 1 dollar.

86. Rate with board, per month, do.?—From 10 dollars to 15.

87. Rate of board for labourers, do. ?—No answer.

88. General remarks or explanations referring to any particular number of the foregoing enquiries ?—I could say many things, but judge that I could say nothing but what could be found in the Reports, or Documents, which I think will be ample as to their explanations; but should the Hon. Commissioners be desirous to obtain any particular information not contained in this Report, nor the Documents, I shall feel very happy to answer them through the Post Office or otherwise.

[F.]

INFORMATION

DESIRED BY

HON. D. MONDELET AND J. NEILSON, ESQUIRES,

LOWER CANADA COMMISSIONERS;

1834,

AND ANSWERS OBTAINED.

(PENNSYLVANIA.)

1. Name of State, Place and Institution?—Pennsylvania, Cherry Hill, near Philadelphia.

2. When commenced?—Vide Laws of Pennsylvania in 1822: stopped thrice, re-commenced in 1831.

3. When finished?—Not till next year.

4. Under what authority?—Acts of the Legislature.

5. Extent of ground or land belonging to the Institution?—Ten acres within the walls. Three acres without the same.

6. Extent of the building?—Six hundred and fifty feet square, at the outer wall.

7. Of what materials?—Stone, partly hewn, gneiss.

8. What distance were the heavy materials brought; and what peculiar advantages or disadvantages for building?—Four miles to the quay, by water, to within a mile and a half of Prison.

9. If built by contract, on public competition, or otherwise, under whose authority, and if any allowance was made for extra work, and by whom?—By day's work, plastering excepted; two hundred dollars allowed to Superintendant of the work.

10. Cost of ground?—Thirteen thousand dollars.

11. Original cost of building?—Not finished.

12. Cost of any additions since?—None.

13. Cost of furniture and utensils at first?—Included in supposed cost.

14. Cost of first supply of tools and materials for the workshops?—Cannot give an estimate.

15. Annual average of repairs?—Not known what they may be.

16. Out of what funds the original expenses were paid?—Legislative appropriation.

17. Amount out of State funds, and how raised?—The States General Fund.

18. Amount out of local funds, and how raised?—Nothing.

19. Amount out of private funds?—Nothing.

20. Nunber of prisoners that can be accommodated?—586.

21. Number each year since commencement?—Vide Report.

22. Males, married?—See Reports.
Do. single?—Ditto.

23. Females, married?—Ditto.
Do. single?—Ditto.

24. Number at present?—Ditto.

25. Males, married?—Ditto.
Do. single?—Ditto.

26. Females, married?—Ditto.
Do. single?—Ditto.

27. Age of commitment?—Ditto.

28. Original employments?—Ditto.

29. Number usually at work in each trade or employment, and hours per day?—Vide Reports. From sun-rise to sun-set; must produce a reasonable week's work, or have diminished food.

30. Number that can read and write?—See Reports.

31. Known to have been intemperate?—Ditto.

32. Not natives of the United States?—Ditto.

33. Crimes?—Ditto.

34. Authority by which sentenced?—County Courts.

35. Duration of sentences?—Vide Reports.

36. For life, and for what crimes?—Ditto.

37. Under what Law or Code sentenced?—Ditto.

38. Escaped, and how?—None, excepting one or two who were retaken.

39. Retaken?—No answer.

40. Number discharged before expiration of sentence, by what authority, and on whose recommendation?—See Reports. On recommendation of friends, through the Governor.

41. Discharged on expiration of sentence?—See Reports.

42. Number of those re-committed, and after what time, or

known to have been committed to other places of confinement? —One re-committed; two to other Prisons, both old Convicts.

43. Nature of confinement in this Institution, and number of each description, viz:—

Solitary without labour?—
Solitary with labour singly?—
Solitary with labour in company?— } All separate confinement, with labour.

44. Nature of labour, males?—See Report.

Ditto females?—Only one, (for killing a woman.)

45. Regulations and code of discipline, and by what authority made?—By the State.

46. Usual punishments for breach of regulations or discipline? —Curtailment of food to eight oz. bread.

47. By whom adjudged?—By the Warden.

48. Under whose authority and by whom inflicted?—By the Warden. No corporeal punishment allowed.

49. Annual number punished for the last three years?—About one per month.

50 Description of offences for which punishments were the most numerous?—Refractory conduct.

51. Check over the Keepers or authority of the Prison?—The weekly visit of Inspectors.

52. Average number of sick per annum?—See Reports,

53. Ditto deaths?—Ditto.

54. Prevailing maladies?—Ditto.

55. Quality and quantity of food, clothing, and drink?—Breakfast,—a pint of cocoa, 1 lb bread, two-thirds wheat, one-third Indian meal. Dinner,—¾ lb beef, 1 pint soup, potatoes at discretion. Supper,—mush at discretion, ½ gill molasses, viz.: ½ gallon delivered each month. Clothing,—cotton cloth in summer, woollen in winter, and flannels by order of the Doctor. Water at discretion.

56. Moral and religious instruction?—Preaching on Sunday, and occasional visits.

57. Interest of capital disbursed for establishment, at the legal rate of the place?—Rate six per cent.

58. Average annual expenditure from commencement, and from what Fund?—No answer.

59. Description of the administration of the Institution, its officers, their titles, duties, salaries and allowances?—Vide Law. Warden, 1500 dollars per annum, and perquisites; second officer, 600 dollars; third officer, 300 dollars; clerk, 500 dollars; cook, 20 dollars per month; baker, 20 dollars per month.

60. Ditto Servants, their number, wages and allowances?—*Nil.*

61. Annual expenses of Prisoners' clothing and bedding?—All expenses, 20 cents per day.

62. Annual expenses for food and drink?—Same answer.

63. Average cost of each Prisoner, calculating the whole annual cost of the establishment?—Same answer.

64. Annual average of purchases for work shops for the last three years?—See Reports.

65. Average of sales ditto?—See Reports. Sales of Prisoners' work not sufficient to maintain Convicts.

66. Market value of goods on hand?—See Reports.

67. Laws regulating the establishment?—If the Convict's work is not sufficient to maintain him, it is chargeable to his County. Four dollars are allowed on leaving Prison.

68. Plan and description of the establishment?—See Messieurs De Beaumont and De Tocqueville's work.

69. If there are any complaints of trades-people and tradesmen or others, in the neighbourhood, in respect to the establishment, and what?—None.

70. Complaints of Prisoners, their nature, and means of redress?—Few; may appeal to Warden or Inspectors.

71. If Prisoners generally are satisfied or disatisfied with their treatment?—Satisfied.

72. General opinion as to the advantages or disadvantges of the Institution?—General opinion favorable.

73. Have crimes, throughout the State, increased or diminished since the establishment, in proportion to the population?—Diminished.

74. Annual emigration from foreign countries into the State?—Not known.

75. Do persons discharged readily obtain confidence and employment on certificates from Institution?—No certificates given; generally get employment.

76. What number are known to have got employment and proved worthy of confidence, during the last three years?—Perhaps two-thirds.

77. What number are known to have proved worthless, during the last three years?—Six known.

78. What is the general opinion of those discharged?—They are not generally known, and it is intended that they should not.

79. What other places of confinement are there in the State, and usual number of Prisoners in each?—Old Walnut Street Prison has about 300. Pittsburgh, see Report.

80. Population of the State?—1,300,000.

81. Proportion of population that can read and write?—See Report.

82. Proportion of Children at School?—See School Report.

83. Proportion of families owners of real estate, and such as are not owners?—Not known.

84. Number of paupers?—See Reports. last

85. Rate of wages of labour, without board, for the three years, per day?—87½ to 100 cents.

86. Rate with board, per month, do.?—Board two dollars per week.

87. Rate of board for labourers, do.?—Eight dollars to twelve dollars.

88. General remarks or explanations referring to any particular number of the foregoing enquiries?—The printed Reports will give all additional information.

[G.]

INFORMATION

DESIRED BY

HON. D. MONDELET AND J. NEILSON, ESQUIRES,

LOWER CANADA COMMISSIONERS;

1834,

AND ANSWERS OBTAINED.

(SING-SING.)

1. Name of State, Place and Institution?—New York, Mount Pleasant, State Prison.
2. When commenced?—May, 1825. See my Report, page 8.
3. When finished?—Cells finished in April, 1830. We are yet building work-shops, out-buildings, &c.
4. Under what authority?—Act of the Legislature passed 1824. See my Report, page 7.
5. Extent of ground or land belonging to the Institution?—One hundred and thirty-three acres.
6. Extent of the building?—See Plans and my Report.
7. Of what materials?—Of marble taken from quarries adjoining the Prison.
8. What distance were the heavy materials brought; and what peculiar advantages or disadvantages for building?—None of them more than two hundred yards from the site; advantages of having quarries near the building.
9. If built by contract, on public competition, or otherwise, under whose authority, and if any allowance was made for extra work, and by whom?—All the work done by the convicts from the commencement.

10. Cost of ground?—20,156 dollars, 50 cents.

11. Original cost of building?—230,105 dollars, 66 cents, includes the whole amount drawn from the Treasury for support of Prisoners and for building materials.

12. Cost of any additions since?—No answer.

13. Cost of furniture and utensils at first?—6,880 dollars, 85 cents.

14. Cost of first supply of tools and materials for the workshops?—20,622 dollars, 56 cents.

15. Annual average of repairs?—Very trifling, as the buildings are new.

16. Out of what funds the original expenses were paid?—Funds of the State.

17. Amount out of State funds, and how raised?—Various revenues of the State.

18. Amount out of local funds, and how raised?—None.

19. Amount out of private funds?—None.

20. Number of Prisoners that can be accommodated?—One thousand.

21. Number each year since commencement?—Commenced with 100 in 1825. In 1828, the old Prison at New York was abandoned, and the inmates removed here, which made the number 520 in 1828; in 1829, 650; in 1830, 730; in 1831, 800. The increase owing to adding more districts of Counties.

22. Males, married?
Do. single?
23. Females, married?
Do. single?
—I have no meaus of ascertaining these facts without going personally to every Convict in Prison, which would take more time than I can devote to it. We have the Females belonging to this Prison kept at Bellevue, New York, at one hundred dollars each per annum. There is no separate Prison for Females in this State.

24. Number at present?—Eight hundred and fifty.

25. Males, married?
Ditto single?
26. Females, married?
Ditto single?
—Same answer as 22 and 23.

27. Age of commitment?
Under fifteen?—12.
From fifteen to twenty-one?—204.
From twenty-one to thirty-one?—432.
From thirty-one to forty-one?—106.
Forty-one and upwards?—96.

28. Original employments?—We find it extremely difficult to give exactly their occupations previous to conviction. Of the

number now in prison, 362 had worked at some mechanical business, the remainder labourers or idlers, most of latter.

Residents of Towns?—Five-sixths.

Residents of Country?—One-sixth.

29. Number usually at work in each trade or employment, and hours per day?—Hatters, 16; boot and shoe makers, 149; stone-cutters, 90; coopers, 141; saddlery hardware, 41; locksmiths and blacksmiths, 83. At this season we work ten hours per day.

30. Number that can read and write?—Out of the 850 now in Prison, about 700 can read; the number that can write not known.

31. Known to have been intemperate?—See Chaplain's Report of 1833; four-sevenths of the whole number were intemperate.

32. Not natives of the United States?—160 out of 850, or about in that proportion.

33. Crimes?—A very large proportion of the crimes are theft.

34. Authority by which sentenced?—Convicts are generally sentenced by the Court of Sessions, and Oyer and Terminer, held in the different Counties.

35. Duration of sentences?

Under one year?—None.

From one to two years?—None.

From two to three years?—420.

From three to four years?—180.

From four to five years?—60.

From five to ten years?—120.

From ten to twenty-one years, and for what crimes?—10. They embrace the whole catalogue of crimes.

36. For life, and for what crimes?—60. Burglary, highway robbery, and arson.

37. Under what law or code sentenced?—Revised Statutes of the State.

38. Escaped, and how?—None within two years past.

39. Retaken?—None.

40. Number discharged before expiration of sentence, by what authority, and on whose recommendation?—See my Report, page 10.

41. Discharged on expiration of sentence?—In 1831, 65; 1832, 133; 1833, 165.

42. Number of those re-committed, and after what time, or known to have been committed to other places of confinement?—There are about from 30 to 40 re-committed each year, principally from the city of New York; seven-eighths of the recommittals are from the city of New York.

43. Nature of confinement in this Institution, and number of each description, viz.:—

Solitary without labour?—None. Solitary Cells when not at labour.

Solitary with labour singly?—None.

Solitary with labour in company?—Solitary at night. Labour in company during the day.

Classed confinement, and labour in company or classes?—All labour in company or classes.

44. Nature of labour, Males?—Various kinds of mechanical business.

Do. Females?—None.

45. Regulations and code of discipline, and by what authority made?—See my Report for particulars.

46. Usual punishments for breach of regulations or discipline?—Same answer.

47. By whom adjudged?—Same answer.

48. Under whose authority, and by whom inflicted?—Same answer.

49. Annual number punished for the last three years?—Same answer.

50. Description of offences for which punishments were the most numerous?—Talking and trifling conduct, disobedience, &c.

51. Check over the Keepers or authority of the Prison?—Stripes limited to ten, and in all cases reports are made to Agent or Deputy.

52. Average number of sick per annum?—Three per cent.

53. Ditto deaths?—About the average number of deaths out of 850 convicts is 22 per year.

54. Prevailing maladies?—Diarrhœa and Dyssentery.

55. Quality and quantity of food, clothing, and drink?—See my Report, page 31.

56. Moral and religious instruction?—See Chaplain's Report contained in the Inspector's Report of 1833 and 1834.

57. Interest of capital disbursed for establishment, at the legal rate of the place?—Sixteen thousand dollars on the original cost, as drawn from the Treasury of the State.

58. Average annual expenditure from commencement, and from what fund?—About forty-five thousand per year, before the Prison was finished; the funds came from the State Treasury, since then from our earnings.

59. Description of the administration of the Institution; its Officers, their titles, duties, salaries and allowances?—See my Report for every information on this subject.

60. Ditto Servants, their number, wages and allowances?—No Servants.

61. Annual expenses of Prisoners' clothing and bedding?—At the present time, is 5923 dollars.

62. Annual expenses for food and drink?—At the present time, is 20,427 dollars.

63. Average cost of each Prisoner, calculating the whole annual cost of the establishment?—29⅓ cents per day, which includes every expense, say interest on first cost of buildings, and all other expenses.

64. Annual average of purchases for work-shops for the last three years?—This cannot be correctly ascertained, as our charges against the shops include many articles of raw material that are manufactured and sold on Act of the State.

65. Average of sales ditto?—See Reports of Inspectors, 1833 and 1834.

66. Market value of goods on hand?—Very few goods on hand except those previously ordered.

67. Laws regulating the establishment?—See Revised Statutes, 2nd vol. page 758.

68. Plan and description of the establishment?—See Plans and my Report.

69. If there are any complaints of trades-people and tradesmen or others, in the neighbourhood, in respect to the establishment, and what?—None in the neighbourhood; but great complaints from the mechanics in the city of New York; this however is more for political effect than any real grievance they suffer from it.

70. Complaints of Prisoners, their nature, and means of redress?—Every person has a right to complain of bad treatment to the Inspectors or Agent; if well founded, they are enquired into.

71. If Prisoners generally are satisfied or disatisfied with their treatment?—I never took their opinion on this subject.

72. General opinion as to the advantages or disadvantages of the Institution?—See my Remarks at large in my Report.

73. Have crimes, throughout the State, increased or diminished since the establishment, in proportion to the population?—Decreased in our Prison district. See my Report, page 9.

74. Annual emigration from foreign countries into the State?—Have not the means at hand to answer this question.

75. Do persons discharged readily obtain confidence and employment on certificates from Institution?—Many of them do, and at first rate wages.

76. What number are known to have got employment and proved worthy of confidence, during the last three years?—I do not now recollect, not having the means of keeping any correct account; many of them I do know are in constant employment.

77. What number are known to have proved worthless, during the last three years?—A large proportion.

78. What is the general opinion of those discharged?—They generally leave the Prison with a full determination to lead an honest life in future; and such of those as do not go back to the city of New York, keep that determination.

79. What other places of confinement are there in the State, and usual number of Prisoners in each?—One State Prison at Auburn with about 650; one Penitentiary at Blackwall's Island with from 100 to 200.

80. Population of the State?—According to the last census in 1830, nearly 2,000,000.

81. Proportion of population that can read and write?—No answer.

82. Proportion of Children at School?—In 1833 the whole number was 494,959.

83. Proportion of families owners of real estate, and such as are not owners?—No answer.

84. Number of paupers?—No answer.

85. Rate of wages of labour, without board, for the last three years, per day?—From 75 cents to 1 dollar.

86. Rate with board, per month, do.?—From 12 to 15 dollars.

87. Rate of board for labourers, do.?—From 1 dollar 50 cents to 2 dollars.

88. General remarks or explanations referring to any particular number of the foregoing enquiries?—From question 82 to 88 inclusive, does not come within our Prison affairs: I am unable to give you the necessary information. Would refer you to the Superintendant's Report of Common Schools in this State.—Since the Prison buildings have been completed so as to enable me to put the Prisoners principally on work for sale, the Prisoners' labour has more than paid all expenses. This year our surplus will be at least fifteen thousand dollars. There is no good reason why a well regulated Prison should not support itself.—The number of stripes has been limited to ten since my Report of Regulations, &c. was made.

[H.]

INFORMATION

DESIRED BY

HON. D. MONDELET AND J. NEILSON, ESQUIRES,

LOWER CANADA COMMISSIONERS;

1834,

AND ANSWERS OBTAINED.

(AUBURN.)

1. Name of State, Place and Institution?—New York State Prison, at Auburn, in the County of Cayuga, State of New York.

2. When commenced?—Commenced in 1816, on the plan of large night rooms or cells, upon which plan the South wing of the Prison was completed in 1820, at which time the plan was changed, and the North wing was commenced, to contain 550 single or solitary cells.

3. When finished?—The buildings as thus arranged, were completed in 1826. Considerable alterations have been since made in the South wing.

4. Under what authority?—It was built by authority of the Legislature of the State.

5. Extent of ground or land belonging to the Institution?—The original extent of the ground was a spuare of 500 feet, which is all walled in. An addition of 13 acres of land has since been made; and preparations are now making to wall in another square of 500 feet, on the West side of the present ground.

6. Extent of the building?—The building consists of a front of feet, with a wing from each end, extending back feet.

The front building contains the Agent and Keepers dwelling house, the Agent's and Clerk's office. The rest of the front, with the wings, contain 770 single cells, a chapel, mess-room, store-rooms, kitchen, and department for female convicts.

7. Of what materials?—The buildings are constructed principally of lime-stone; window and door caps, sills and jambs, principally of red free stone; roof, floors and casings, of wood.

8. What distance were the heavy materials brought; and what peculiar advantages or disadvantages for building?—The lime-stone quarried in the immediate neighbourhood of the Prison. The free-stone were procured at Oswego, forty miles from the Prison. The timber was procured in the vicinity of the Prison; and the pine lumber from the head of Cayuga Lake, distant forty miles. The advantages consisted in the abundance and cheapness of the material.

9. If built by contract, on public competition, or otherwise, under whose authority, and if any allowance was made for extra work, and by whom?—The buildings were erected, in part, by artizans, under the superintendance of master builders, employed by Commissioners appointed by the State Government. No part was under contract, except the iron work, which was wrought at a fixed price per lb. Subsequently the Convicts were employed to complete the buildings under the superintendance of Citizen Mechanics.

10. Cost of ground?—The original grounds were given to the State; the subsequent addition of thirteen acres, was purchased at an expense of 2,700 dollars.

11. Original cost of building?—The cost of Prison cannot be ascertained here, from the fact that a considerable portion of the labour was done by Convicts; and that no distinction was made in the expenses of supporting, and erecting the buildings. It is estimated to have cost 500,000 dollars.

12. Cost of any additions since?—The principal alterations have been, the entire rebuilding of the South wing, except the outer wall on one side. It now contains 220 single cells, a chapel, mess-room, store-rooms, and female departments. Without estimating the Convict labour, the rebuilding has cost 16,600 dollars.

13. Cost of furniture and utensils at first?—The cost cannot be ascertained, as the furniture and utensils have been made and procured from time to time, as the necessities of the Prison required.

14. Cost of first supply of tools and materials for the workshops?—This head of expense is in the same situation. The amount of furniture, tools, clothing, bedding, and raw materials in the Prison, September 30th, 1833, which belonged to the

State, was 27,237 dollars. It is to be observed that most of the tools in use in the Prison, are furnished by the persons who contract for the labour of the Convicts.

15. Annual average of repairs?—This cannot be ascertained with exactness.

16. Out of what funds the original expenses were paid?—The expenses of building, and maintenance of the Convicts, and salaries of the Officers, were originally paid from the State Treasury, or so much of the expense as the earnings of the Convicts did not pay. Since 1827, these earnings have been sufficient to defray all the expenses of the Prison, without a resort to the Treasury.

17. Amount out of State funds, and how raised?—Amount not known: by the ordinary revenue of the Government.

18. Amount out of local funds, and how raised?—Nothing from local funds, except the revenue of the Prison, from the earnings of the Convicts. Amount not known here.

19. Amount out of private funds?—None.

20. Number of Prisoners that can be accommodated?—There are 770 cells for male convicts, and rooms for about 30 female convicts, so that 800 could be confined here.

21. Number each year since commencement?—In 1817, 61; 1818, 95; 1819, 106; 1820, 101; 1821, 122; 1822, 92; 1823, 123; 1824, 129; 1825, 142; 1826, 193; 1827, 190; 1828, 174; 1829, 170; 1830, 114; 1831, 114; 1832, 132; 1833, 193. It is to be observed that there have been several alterations in the extent of the territory or district, from which Convicts are to be sent to this Prison. Different Counties are sometimes attached to this Prison, and at other times to the Sing Sing Prison at Mount Pleasant.

22. Males, married?—Not known.
Do. single?—Ditto.

23. Females, married?—Ditto.
Do. single?—Ditto.

24. Number at present?—670.

25. Males, married?—331.
Do. single?—311.—Total, 642.

26. Females, married?—16.
Do. single?—12.—Total, 28; whole number, 670.

27. Age of commitment?—Under 15, 12; from 15 to 20, 253; from 20 to 30, 1149; from 30 to 40, 521; from 40 to 50, 241; from 50 to 60, 94; from 60 to 70, 27; from 70 to 80, 5. —Total, 2,302.

28. Original employments?—Not known. A large portion mere day labourers; a small portion mechanics, and very few professional men.

29. Number usually at work in each trade or employment, and hours per day?—There were employed in the Prison on the 1st January, 1834, (about 500 of the number employed by contractors) in stone-cutting, 18; coopering, 63; tool-making, 40; shoe-making, 49; weavers and spoolers of cotton wool, 117; tailoring, 42; clock-making, 22; machinists and smiths, 51; comb-making, 38; cabinet and chair-making, 49; carpenters, 7; hame and saddle-tree-makers, and platers, 50; wood-sawyers and labourers, 18; soap-boilers and ostler, 3; attendants in wings, 10; cooks and washers, 28; hospital nurses, 2; invalids in hospital, 6; invalids in kitchen, 4; masons, 8; labourers and tenders, 20; stocking weavers, 3; barbers, 6. Females mending and making clothing, 24.—Total in Prison, 679. When the length of the days is such as to admit of it, the Prisoners are taken from their cells at half-past 5 o'clock, A. M. and returned again at 6 o'clock, P. M. At all other seasons of the year they are taken out and returned at such hours as will leave them at work during all the day light. They have about thirty minutes for breakfast, and the same time for dinner; the residue of the time they are employed at their several avocations.

30. Number that can read and write?—Collegiate education, 3; academical do. 8; common do. 209; very poor do. 270; without any do. (unable to read the Bible) 180. Number now in Prison, 670. All of the last class were unable to write, and also many of the fourth class.

31. Known to have been intemperate?—Grossly, 257; moderately, 246; temperate drinkers, 157; total abstinents, 10.—Total now in Prison, 670.

32. Not natives of the United States?—From the commencement to 1st January, 1834, from Ireland, 181; England, 97; Scotland, 25; Germany, 13; the Canadas, 54; other foreign countries, 28.—Total not natives of the United States, 398.

33. Crimes?—Of the Convicts in Prison on the 1st January, 1834, there were for *Violence*.—Murder, 4; manslaughter, 14; assault to kill, 33; poisoning, 2; rape, 10; assault to rape, 11; robbery, 11—85. *Theft*.—Grand larceny, 246; petit larceny, second offence, 79; burglary, 78; receiving stolen goods, 7—410. *Fraud*.—Forgery, 71; perjury, 12; swindling, 10—93. *Miscellaneous*.—Breaking gaol, arson, bigamy, &c., 91. Total in Prison, 679.

34. Authority by which sentenced?—All sentenced by the Circuit and County Judges, except commutations by the Governor, from hanging to imprisonment for life.

35. Duration of sentences?—Of the Convicts in Prison on 1st January, 1834, there were sentenced:—Under 1 year, none;

from 1 to 2 years, none; for 2 and less than 3 years, 119; for 3 and less than 4, 138; for 4 and less than 5, 63; for 5 and less than 10, 239; from 10 to 20, 86.

36. For life, and for what crimes?—Thirty-four; for murder, manslaughter and burglary.

37. Under what Law or Code sentenced?—Under the Statute Laws of the State of New York.

38. Escaped, and how?—None, since the walls were completed in 1825.

39. Retaken?—Same answer.

40. Number discharged before expiration of sentence, by what authority, and on whose recommendation?—The whole number discharged, before expiration of sentence, up to 1st January, 1834, was about 700. The pardoning power lies in the Governor of the State. Pardons are usually procured at the solicitation of the friends of the Convicts: some few on the recommendation of the principal Keeper of the Prison.

41. Discharged on expiration of sentence?—The whole number discharged on expiration of sentence during the same period was about 800.

42. Number of those re-committed, and after what time, or known to have been committed to other places of confinement?—The whole number re-committed to this Prison, up to the same time, was 103. How many to other Prisons is not known; but few such instances have come to my knowledge.

43. Nature of confinement in this Institution?—The confinement in this Prison since 1823, has been solitary at night, in single cells, with labour by day in companies, and silence and non-intercourse, day and night. No other confinement or classification is practised here.

44. Nature of labour, males?—The kinds of labour are indicated in reply to No. 29. The sentences of the Courts invariably require hard labour.

Ditto females?—Same answer.

45. Regulations and code of discipline, and by what authority made?—The regulations and code of discipline, are made by the Agent, under the approval of the Board of Inspectors, and under the sanction of the Laws of the State relative to State Prisons. Each Convict is to be confined in a separate cell at night; perfect silence, and strict non-intercourse, with diligent and constant labour; and perfect obedience to all the rules of the Prison. The details for effecting these objects are hardly susceptible of being drawn out; but are readily suggested by experience and expediency.

46. Usual punishments for breach of regulations or discipline?—The usual punishment for breaches of regulations, are stripes

with a raw hide whip, or cat with six strands, made of twine, inflicted on the back.

47. By whom adjudged?—By the Assistant Keeper, having charge of the company of Convicts, where the offence is committed.

48. Under whose authority, and by whom inflicted?—The Assistant Keepers have a general authority, to enforce the discipline of the Prison, among the Convicts composing the several companies under their charge; upon a breach of the rules, or a refusal to comply with them, he inflicts the punishment himself, and reports the offender's name, the offence, and number of stripes, to the principal Keeper or Deputy. In extraordinary cases, a report is made of the offence, and the offender punished, under the immediate direction of one of those officers.

49. Annual number punished for the last three years?—As no register of punishments is kept, the number is not known.

50 Description of offences for which punishments were the most numerous?—The most common offence is talking; a very large portion of punishments is for this offence.

51. Check over the Keepers or authority of the Prison?—The check over the Assistant Keepers, is the Principal, and Deputy Keepers· the whole are again subject to the Board of Inspectors, who exercise a supervision over the Prison in all its departments.

52. Average number of sick per annum?—The average number of Hospital cases for the year ending 31st December, 1833, was 7. Average number prescribed for, in same period, including the Hospital cases, was 17.

53. Ditto deaths?—Number of deaths in same period, was 11.

54. Prevailing maladies?—There are no prevailing maladies, peculiar to the Prison.

55. Quality and quantity of food, clothing, and drink?—The daily rations for each Convict, consist of the following:—10 oz. pork, or 16 oz. beef, 10 oz. wheat flour, not bolted, 12 oz. Indian meal, ½ gill molasses, for a ration; and 2 quarts rye for coffee, 4 quarts salt, 2 quarts· vinegar, 1½ oz. pepper, 2½ bushels potatoes, for 100 rations,—all of good quality.

56. Moral and religious instruction?—A Chaplain is employed by the State, who spends all his time in the Prison, and employs himself in giving moral and religious instruction to the Convicts, at all seasonable hours, when they are not at their labour. He conducts a Sabbath School among them, containing about 200 Scholars, in which are taught the first rudiments of learning, as well as morality and religion: he preaches every Sabbath forenoon, to all the Convicts assembled in the Chapel;

and spends the afternoon in visiting and conversing with them individually at their cells. Each Convict has a Bible in his cell, and is occasionally furnished with religious tracts. A Bible is presented to each discharged Convict, as he leaves the Prison.

57. Interest of capital disbursed for establishment, at the legal rate of the place?—No answer.

58. Average annual expenditure from commencement, and from what Fund?—Expenditures of the Prison, for general support and repairs, including salaries of officers, for the year ending September 30th, 1832, was 38,304 dollars 31 cents, and for the year ending September 30th, 1833, was 41,040 dollars 45 cents.—All paid from the earnings of the Convicts.

59. Description of the administration of the Institution, its officers, their titles, duties, salaries and allowances?—The Institution is governed by a Board of Inspectors, consisting of five, appointed by the Governor and Senate. The Board appoint the Agent and Keeper, whose salary is 1250 dollars per annum. One Deputy Keeper, salary 650 dollars. Twenty assistant Keepers, salary of 450 dollars each; and eighteen Guards, at 25 dollars per month. The Clerk is appointed by the Governor and Senate, with a salary of 650 dollars. A Physician, with salary of 500 dollars, and Chaplain, salary 450 dollars, are appointed by Inspectors.

60. Ditto Servants, their number, wages and allowances?—No Servants are employed, except Convicts.

61. Annual expenses of Prisoners' clothing and bedding?—Expenses for the year ending September 30th, 1832, were 3,734 dollars, and for the year ending September 30th, 1833, were 3,432 dollars.

62. Annual expenses for food and drink?—Expenses for the year ending September 30th, 1832, were 12,115 dollars, and for the year ending September, 30th, 1833, were 12,620 dollars.

63. Average cost of each Prisoner, calculating the whole annual cost of the establishment?—Average for the year ending September 30th, 1832, was 60 dollars; for the year ending September 30th, 1833, was 59 dollars 50 cents.

64. Annual average of purchases for work shops for the last three years?—Is not applicable to this Prison, as all the materials to be manufactured, are furnished by persons who contract for the labour of the Convicts, and are made up and sold on account of the contractor.

65. Average of sales ditto?—Same answer as to 64.

66. Market value of goods on hand?—Same answer.

67. Laws regulating the establishment?—The Statute Laws, relating to State Prisons, are contained in the Revised Statutes

of this State. The Bye-Laws established by the Board of Inspectors, for the government of the Prison are now under revision, and when completed will be forwarded.

68. Plan and description of the establishment?—A plan of the Prison, Shops, &c. accompanies these papers.

69. If there are any complaints of trades-people and tradesmen or others, in the neighbourhood, in respect to the establishment, and what?—Recently, complaints have been made by the mechanics and artizans of the towns of the State, that the goods and articles manufactured in the two State Prisons, enter into injurious competition with their own; and that the system of mechanical labour in the Prisons, gives trades to a class of men, who on their discharge, by working and associating with the citizen mechanic, are likely to degrade and corrupt him.

70. Complaints of Prisoners, their nature, and means of redress?—They have no particular grievances to complain of, except their general situation as Convicts. They are allowed to state their grievances to the Chaplain, and Principal and Deputy Keepers.

71. If Prisoners generally are satisfied or dissatisfied with their treatment?—Generally satisfied.

72. General opinion as to the advantages or disadvantages of the Institution?—Public opinion in this State and abroad, is decidedly in favour of this system.

73. Have crimes, throughout the State, increased or diminished since the establishment, in proportion to the population?—Convictions have not increased in proportion to the increase of population; and for the last two years there has been an actual decrease of convictions throughout the State.

74. Annual emigration from foreign countries into the State?—Not known.

75. Do persons discharged readily obtain confidence and employment on certificates from Institution?—No certificates are given to Prisoners on their discharge; they readily obtain confidence, if their conduct warrants it.

76. What number are known to have got employment and proved worthy of confidence, during the last three years?—Not known. See Prison Discipline Society Reports.

77. What number are known to have proved worthless, during the last three years?—Same answer.

78. What is the general opinion of those discharged?—Same answer.

79. What other places of confinement are there in the State, and usual number of Prisoners in each?—There is another State Prison at Mount Pleasant, near New York. In the city of New York, there is a large Penitentiary, House of Refuge, and Gaol; and a Gaol in every County.

80. Population of the State?—About 2,000,000.

81. Proportion of population that can read and write?—Not known.

82. Proportion of children at school?—Same answer.

83. Proportion of families owners of real estate, and such as are not owners?—Same answer.

84. Number of Paupers?—Same answer.

85. Rate of wages of labour, without board, for the last three years, per day?—Same answer.

86. Rate with board, per month, do.?—Same answer.

87. Rate of board for labourers, do.?—Same answer.

88. General remarks or explanations referring to any particular number of the foregoing enquiries?—No answer.